



# ECHO IRELAND

Journal of the  
Irish Radio Transmitters Society

August 2012



Spring 2012 Counties Contest

High Power Portable Winners

Dundalk Amateur Radio Society  
EI7DAR/P



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## News Bulletins and Readers

<b>Sunday</b>				
Dublin	1100	7.123	SSB	Sean EI7CD, Ger EI4GXB
				Francis EI5GOB, George EI7GKB
Wicklow	1130	3.680	SSB	(as Gaeilge) Paddy EI7GK, Danny EI6GS
Dublin	1145	145.525	FM	Tony EI5EM, John EI7JG, Frank EI6EF, Liam EI3HK
Dublin	1200	3.650	SSB	As 1100
Mayo	2000	145.600 - 433.450	FM	70.375 - 50.450
				John EI7IQ, Padraic EI9JA, Jimmy EI2GCB
Tipperary	2030	145.450	FM	Tommy EI2IT, John EI2JB, Andy EI5JF, Eddie EI3FFB
<b>Monday</b>				
Cork	2000	145.750	FM	Vincent EI7HN
Limerick	2000	145.725	FM	Brian EI9AL, Simon EI7ALB, Gerry EI3JU, Ger EI4GXB
Louth	2000	145.675		Thos EI2JD, Anthony EI2KC, Jim EI2HJB
<b>Tuesday</b>				
Waterford	2130	145.650	FM	Francis EI5GOB
North Cork	2000	430.925	FM	Lisa EI9GSB

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## Elected Committee Members 2012/13

John Owen-Jones EI1EM  
 Thos Caffrey EI2JD  
 Anthony Murphy EI2KC  
 Tony Casey EI3HA  
 Sean Donelan EI4GK  
 Ger McNamara EI4GXB  
 Stephen Wright EI5DD  
 Dave O'Connor EI6AL  
 Brendan Minish EI6IZ  
 John Ronan EI7IG  
 John McCarthy EI8JA  
 Jim Holohan EI4HH (Co-Opted)

**IRTS Committee Meeting**  
**Saturday September 8th**  
**1100**  
**Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise**

### **Diary Dates 2013**

**Lough Erne Rally April 7th 2013**

**IRTS AGM, Athlone April 27/28th**

**40 Metre News Frequency**  
**is now 7123kHz**

**1100 Sundays**

### ***When is my membership due for renewal?***

Your membership renewal date is shown on the wrapper in which the newsletter is posted – above the name and address. For those who receive Echo Ireland by electronic distribution, the renewal date is included in the email alert sent when a new issue is published. Members who pay by direct debit will see “(DD)” after the renewal date.

Use [www.irts.ie/renew](http://www.irts.ie/renew) to renew your membership at any time; you can also renew at a Rally, or by sending your annual subscription directly to the IRTS Treasurer.

Please renew early to keep our postage and other costs down. Membership is extended by 12 months from the normal renewal date whenever a payment is received.

**Joe Ryan, Membership Records Officer**  
[memrecords@irts.ie](mailto:memrecords@irts.ie)

### **Online Access to Echo Ireland**

If you would like to have online access to the complete library of Echo Ireland issues from 2001 onwards and receive new issues of Echo Ireland by way of electronic download instead of in hard copy, please advise the Membership Records Officer.

Include your call sign and email address in the request and send it to:  
[memrecords@irts.ie](mailto:memrecords@irts.ie)

## **Silent Key** **Mick Hoban EI5DCB**

Michael (Mick) Hoban was born in 1940, in Grannagh, Kilmacow, Co. Kilkenny. He passed away on March 19th 2012.

He was an only child and he became interested in radio like many others, during the CB boom of 1978 which is when he first met other like minded individuals such as Nicky Madigan, EI3JB and Eamonn Phelan, EI9GO.

Prior to this he worked in England during the 50's and 60's and after returning to Waterford joined the staff of Waterford Carpets where he worked until he retired.

Michael joined SEARG in the mid 1980's and received his license shortly afterwards. He was a continuous presence in the club since then. Michael could be relied upon to respond to a call on the Waterford City repeater, was regularly heard in the mornings when 'out-and-about', and was particularly interested in any discussions related to fishing, shooting, hunting or indeed fast cars.

Michael was active on the air, very interested in wire aerials and their construction. He studied a number of times for the Morse exam and was about to take the test when the distinction between the A & B license was removed.

He accompanied Eamonn Phelan, EI9GO to rallies for a long number of years. He always thought that it was worth the table fee just to get in and have a look a round before the rally opened to the public.

He is survived by his wife Anne, his two daughters, two stepsons and will be missed by his many friends.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

John Ronan  
Secretary,  
South Eastern Amateur Radio Group.



### **Dick Baldwin W1RU R.I.P.**

The death has been reported of Dick Baldwin W1RU former General Manager of ARRL from 1975-1982 and former President of IARU International for seventeen years from 1982-1999.

As ARRL Assistant General Manager Dick was primarily responsible for initiating preparations for WARC 79 and was a key player in turning the objective of obtaining three new bands at 10, 18 and 24 MHz into a reality.

On his retirement from IARU in 1999 he was named President Emeritus by the Administrative Council.

May he rest in peace.

### **Silent Key** **Dan Byrne EI2CK**

We have heard with regret of the death on Tuesday, 22nd May of Dan Byrne EI2CK, 35 Endsleigh, Douglas Road, Cork.

Dan's funeral took place on Thursday 24th May after Requiem Mass in St. Columba's Church to St. Finbarr's Cemetery.

Dan was a former Chairman of Cork Radio Club but he has not been active on the air for a few years.

We extend our sincerest sympathy to his family.

May he rest in peace.

# EI80IRTS Award

The Irish Radio Transmitters Society was founded in 1932 and we are proud to celebrate our 80th anniversary in 2012. As part of the celebrations the Society will be using the special callsign EI80IRTS.

A special certificate, available to all amateurs and SWLs, is being offered to celebrate this wonderful occasion. Contact the special callsign EI80IRTS during the period of January 1st 2012 to December 31st 2012.

## Requirements

2-way communication on Phone, CW or Digi modes on the HF (1.8-28) and VHF (50-1200MHz) bands.

Cross band QSO's will not be accepted for this award.

Contacts made via active earthbound reflectors, repeaters and EchoLink will not be counted.

The certificate is available in three levels:

- Bronze Award 3 different bands.
- Silver Award 5 different bands.
- Gold Award 8 different bands.

## Applicants

Applicants should submit a list showing the date and time you worked or heard EI80IRTS, plus frequency and mode. QSL cards are not required.

The declared QSO's will be cross-checked for validity based on the logs of EI80IRTS.

The application fee is €5.00 or US \$7.00

Send applications to Award Manager:

Thos Caffrey,  
The Slip,  
Clogherhead,  
Co. Louth,  
Ireland.

At the same time, please send an e-mail to [contestmanager@irts.ie](mailto:contestmanager@irts.ie) to inform him that you sent your application by mail. The award is sponsored by the Dundalk Amateur Radio Society.

## Silent Key Joe Clarke EI5CI

The many friends of Joe Clarke CEng MIEI EI5CI will be sad to hear of his death on the 13th of June 2012, peacefully at his residence.

A long time radio experimenter, he was very knowledgeable in data modes first on RTTY then on packet radio.

In the early days of packet he operated the first EI packet bulletin board using a Commodore 64 computer, then moving rapidly to a Nixdorf 8086.

A popular and approachable amateur he helped many get started in computers and packet radio. He was a founder member of the DDRG (Dublin Digital Radio Group) and hosted many meetings in his QTH. Joe worked in computers and telecommunications and held posts in the old Department of Posts and Telegraphs, then joined Aer Lingus where he was involved in avionics and communications as well as the SITA booking system.

He later moved to ICL then on to Siemens Nixdorf, eventually starting his own company Network Facilities.

He resided for many years at Cowper Road, Rathmines, Dublin and on retirement moved to Coolboy, County Wicklow.

He will be sadly missed by his wife Maura, sons Ronan and Aodan, daughters-in-law Christine and Anne.

Ta se imithe ar sli na firinne anois. Ar dheis De go raibh a hanam dilis.



## Silent Key Terry Stevens G8DKS

It has been announced that the RSGB VHF Manager Terry Stevens G8DKS died suddenly on Sunday, July 8.

Only a few weeks ago Terry was representing the Society at meetings in Friedrichshafen.

We extend our sincerest sympathy to his family and friends.

May he rest in peace

## EI25DB to mark the 25th anniversary of Dublin Bus

This year Dublin Bus celebrates its 25th Birthday.

To celebrate the event a Special Event Station EI25DB will be aired between 1st July 2012 and 30th June 2013.

The station will be operated by current and former employees of Dublin Bus led by Declan EI9HQ and Pete EI4GZB.

QSLs to Declan EI9HQ or on LOTW or HamLog.eu

## Licence Examination

The next Amateur Station Licence Examination will be held on

**Thursday 4th October**  
at 2 p.m. in the ComReg Offices  
in Dublin city centre.

Full details, including entry procedure, examination fee and how to pay the fee online are available by clicking on the Licence Exam button on the IRTS homepage at [www.irts.ie](http://www.irts.ie)

Places for the examination are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

The closing date for applications to sit this examination is:

**Thursday, 20th September.**

Please note that it is necessary to download the application form from the web page and forward the completed form and the appropriate fee in order to secure a place for the examination.

If you pay the fee on line you must still complete and forward the application form.



## International Space Station Amateur Radio contact with Dublin

The European Space Agency has locations in several European countries. The annual summer space camp is an occasion when the children of staff employed at ESA get a chance to mix with each other in an environment which allows them to be immersed in space activities and cultural events.

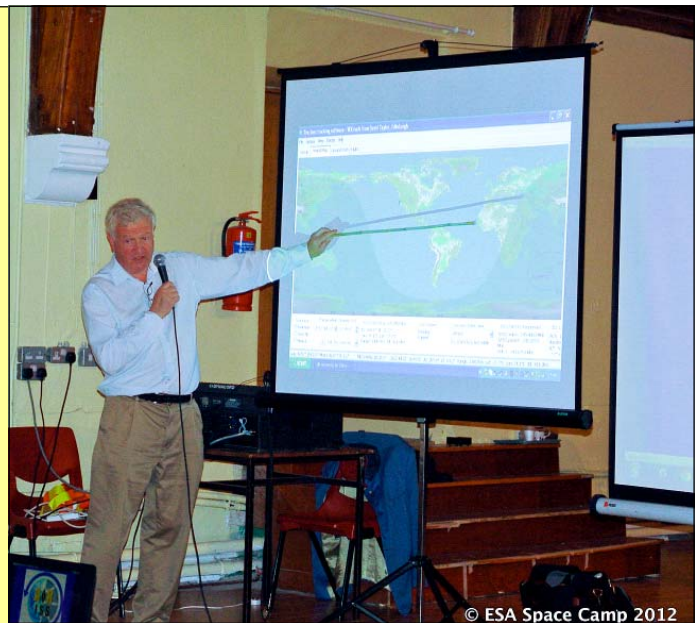
This year the 160 ESA campers landed in a traditional "Harry Potter" style boarding school near Dublin, in Saint Columba's College.

As part of the camp, the children had an opportunity to ask questions to Joe Acaba KE5DAR - NASA astronaut - who is currently on the International Space Station via ham radio through the ARISS (Amateur Radio on the ISS) facilities. The contact with the ISS was facilitated by volunteers from the Irish Radio Transmitters Society, Séamus EI8BP, Paul EI2CA and Seán EI7CD .

The participants spoke to the ISS via a link, moderated by Gaston Bertels ON4WF, ARISS Chairman, to an amateur radio ground station in Santa Rosa, California, W6SRJ.

The contact took place at approximately 1725 Dublin time on Sunday 22 July, and was preceded by a presentation on ARISS and satellites by Séamus EI8BP.

The contact was available on Echolink and was streamed by Dundalk Amateur Radio Society EI7DAR on their website.



## IRTS Regional Representatives

Regional Representatives act as liaison between members/clubs in their respective regions and the IRTS Committee.  
Feel free to contact them if you have any issue to raise or suggestion to make about IRTS or its activities.

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3	Kidare/Laois/Longford/Offaly/ Roscommon/Westmeath	Mark Condon EI6JK		ei6jk@hotmail.com
4	Clare/Kerry/Limerick/Tipperary	Ger McNamara EI4DXB	087-2532512	ei4gxb@gmail.com
5	Cork	Dave Moore EI4BZ	087-6290574	ei4bz@eircom.net
6	Carlow/Kilkenny/Waterford/ Wexford	John McCarthy EI8JA		ei8ja@eircom.net
7	Cavan/Louth/Meath/Monaghan	Thos Caffrey EI2JD	087-2953256	thoscaffrey@hotmail.com
8	Galway/Leitrim/Mayo/Sligo	Steve Wright EI5DD		wright 14@gmail.com
9	Dublin South of the Liffey Wicklow	Jim Smith EI4CP		ei4cp@ireland.com

**Please send your input for Echo Ireland to  
ei4bz@eircom.net**

# EI5KF on Bere Island IOTA Contest 2012

My friend Cormac (Prof. of Pure Maths at NY State) was amused with an 80m doublet and especially how we got it up there at 50ft. I was hoping he would derive a new formula or theorem on a new antenna design or an easier way of antenna rigging. Unfortunately he does not do applied maths and just drinks too much beer! Hi Hi.

The weather was beautiful and the sun shone for us, however we were in for a few surprises. On Friday

we got the 1130 ferry from Castletownbere and had the doublet, tent, generator and kit setup by 1900. Our 12VDC fridge was cooling our beers since 0800, we changed it to 230VAC once gennie is working, most important. All looked good.....

Had a nice dinner in the Lookout Cafe at the pier, fresh fish galore....but then the owner says "your camped up there! Do you know there is a 21st party tonight and that's were they all joy ride".....oh I feel sick, got to get back to base!

Cormac stayed at Martello View and I held the fort at the camp. Ran up the gennie to make a few late night calls and make sure all is good for the morrow. Blackout.....no DC supply, Ooops. Mind working overtime, opened DC PSU, nothing obvious. What to do, usually I'd

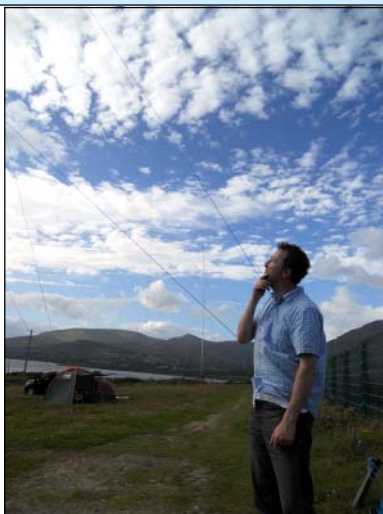
have a spare 15VDC supply in the van for work, not today. Disaster. Panic,

Disappointment....despair...who would have a PSU.....aaah yes Bernie O'Sullivan EI6AX must be the best bet. 1st call in the morning was to Bernie. Never met the man before, and as a true gent, without a further ado, he offered to bring his spare DC PSU into the ferry for 1100. I went across after breakfast as a foot passenger and met him, assuring him, if anything happened his supply I would of course replace it. Bernie thank you for saving our bacon!

We still had a new Spiderbeam to construct in the morning and

I returned to camp at 1200 (local), after meeting Bernie. We were due to start on air at 1300 local time. I decided to take a 60minute break from the start time and begin at 1400 local time.

Bernie Murphy



from down the road arrived and showed great interest in our setup, unfortunately I could not delay and told him to return later when we were on air and see what it was about. There was a front passing over and the wind picked up, we did not get the beam up as high as we would have liked and another problem was the ropes were too short.

In the middle of it, Carolyn and Richard Au arrived as they were on a stroll from their yacht in the harbour. They had sailed from the USA and made land at Bere a few days before. Carolyn KC8EDD being a Ham, was enthused at our efforts....clock ticking....!

We started transmitting at 1400 local and got off to a slow start. After a while noticed I could not tune up on 15m. Problem with ATU, earlier noticed the ladder line was pulling too much and the insulator at the back of the ATU was loose, tightened it, but obviously the wire inside broke.....worked a few contacts in the 1st hour on the beam and decided to take another 60 minute break and sort out the ATU.

Back on and eager to go, Cormac decided he would walk some of the island and order me dinner at The Hotel to be on the table for 1915. I operated until the hour and got a few calls in the log on 15 and 20m....that EU-121 is taking up too much time on exchanges, of course I should have used EJ, not EI, I know....I've started so I'll finish with EI.

After dinner, had JA/JK/JN/JQ on 20m and I found the QSO rate more satisfactory, worked TO2U, EJ0PL, GU70, P2NLW and worked away until 2300, but my SD is a little erratic and forgot about priority function for the program, must get an external keyer! Ohh dear, that gennie is

guzzling juice and I know in my heart I've too little fuel.

The van has only a quarter tank of fuel, so I don't want to run the engine....work on and accept the inevitable...sure enough around 0100 local time the lights go out.....oh well.

We can do better next year....so for now better drink that cold beer in the fridge, while its still cold. Sat out under the stars and had two cold Belfast Ales and watched the Fastnet flash over the Mizen.

A cruise ship all lit up appeared heading for New York, I guess from Europe and passed across the moonlit seas....ahh heaven.

Slept good and got back to the B&B for breakfast and a shower....packed up and left the site as it should be, and dropped the PSU back at SuperValu for Bernie to collect.

With all the issues, the 21st party did not seem to appear at the fort and we heard on the grapevine some island elders had warned the party not to venture near the fort or around the barracks where the Tipperary hurling team were billeted for a team building exercise.

We left the island with a nice feeling that we could come back and do a lot better ..... and so we will....and we'll print EJ QSLs too!

Gerard EI5KF





# EJ3Z on Inishbofin IOTA Contest 2012

On 25th July last, members of the Shannon Basin Radio Club once again set off to Inishbofin to activate EU-121 using the call EJ3Z as part of the IOTA 2012 contest.

Enda EI2II and Fergus EI6IB had the job of bringing all the "gear" over on the freight ferry.

Once on site, which was once again the National School on the island, the station was set up.

The rest of the team consisting of Tony EI3HA, Niall EI4CF Anthony EI6GGB and Brian EI8IU arrived over the next two days.

The contest station consisted of an Icom IC7600, Icom IC756 PRO3 (Thanks to Galway Radio Club), a 6 band Hex beam, a double Zepp and a vertical for 40m and 80m.

The station was complete, tested and ready to go by Friday evening.

On Saturday morning, we had the chance to operate using our own calls with the EJ prefix which proved very popular with several pile ups.

Then, when the contest started, we discovered how popular the EJ prefix really is!

We spent the next 24 hours working almost continuously with only a few breaks for the essentials! Both SSB and CW were used with nearly a 50-50 split between QSO totals for the two modes.

The Hex beam was very impressive and performed very well considering its relatively small size. The Zepp and vertical worked well on 40 and 80m.



When the contest was over, we had bettered our previous years score and QSO count which was in our opinion a successful outcome.

Over the next few days we relaxed a bit, again had numerous QSOs with our own call signs, explored the island which has some fabulous scenery, walks, beaches and the occasional pub which also led to extensive "rag chewing".

Tony EI3HA also operated as EJ3HA bicycle mobile!



It was a most enjoyable few days and already we are planning for next year's contest.

We extend our thanks to the Principal and committee of Inishbofin National School for letting us use the school which has some fine views of the harbour.

We would also like to thank Galway Radio Club for the use of their equipment.

## IRTS Team at the Youngsters on the Air event in Belgium.

An IRTS team of young operators/SWL's represented Ireland at the Youngsters on the Air event over the week of 19 - 26 August in Eeklo, Belgium.

Radio related events were held during the week, including, kit construction, ARDF, DXpeditions, use of datamodes, contesting etc.

Each country also gave presentations on youth in amateur radio in their respective countries.

Nine teams from different European member associations of IARU Region 1 participated.

The following countries participated: Romania, Slovenia, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Ireland, Germany, Belgium and The Netherlands.

## HF News Readers Needed

Additional HF newsreaders are required to cover the 40 & 80m Sunday morning news broadcasts.

Any members that wish to join the panel and are available to read the HF news would be most welcome. Please send an email to [info@irts.ie](mailto:info@irts.ie)

## German Radio Hams gain access to 472-479 kHz

Radio amateurs in Germany are now allowed to operate in the new 472-479 kHz band. Power limit is 1 watt e.r.p , max. bandwidth 800 Hz.



# HF Happenings

with Anthony Murphy EI2KC

Hello again to all DXers, HFers and short wave listeners. It's hard to believe we're into the second half of 2012 already. I hope the first half of the year has been kind to you, and that you have bagged lots of good DX. If not, I hope at least that you have been enjoying the pleasure of listening to the bands.

For various reasons, the shack of EI2KC has not been perhaps as busy this past two months as it had been through winter and spring, but nonetheless I've been enjoying working some of the DXpeditions and indeed nabbing new countries on 6 metres, where I have notched up no less than 18 new DXCC this season. I have, since the last issue, been made redundant from my job. But I have not been idle. I have just completed the text of my next book, 'Newgrange – Monument to Immortality' which is due to be published by The Liffey Press sometime in October. I hope to see many of my ham friends at the launch, which will hopefully take place sometime in November.

Anyway, back to more relevant topics, including propagation and band conditions. I am unable to comment specifically on conditions over the past two months due to a considerable drop in activity on this side, but in the past week there certainly have been good conditions on 10 metres, where a number of EI stations have nabbed, for instance, the D64K Comoros Island DXpedition. In fact, looking at the online log right now (I am writing this while the DXpedition is still in full swing), every one of the EI ops in the top ten has worked Comoros on 28 MHz. Hopefully these conditions will last. We have yet to see a return to the exceptional conditions on 10 metres which gave us great pleasure in the autumn and winter of 2011.

## Logbook of the World confirmations

Within the past few days I have received LoTW confirmations from ST0R, the DXpedition to South Sudan which took place in 2011. I hope many other EIs are using this fantastic QSL confirmation system, which is very convenient.

In the same week, I have received QSLs via Logbook of the World for the HK0NA Malpelo dpxpedition which took place in late January this year. Hopefully anyone else who worked these rare ones now has confirmation by LoTW.

## Recent DXpeditions and HF activity

### RI1ANF, South Shetland

Many of us were surprised and indeed delighted when RI1ANF, Oleg, began operations from King George Island on the South Shetland Islands (DXCC designation VP8-H) recently. This was a brand new DXCC for many of us, although so far Oleg's activity has been confined to CW. Having worked this DXCC before, I was thrilled to nab Oleg on 17m CW in May. Since then, I have worked him on all bands from 40m through 10m, and am still listening on the odd occasion he has been on 80m. Hopefully some EIs have worked him on 80, and perhaps even top band?

### 1A0C, Sovereign Order of Malta

Another nice DXCC to pop up in recent times was 1A, in the form of 1A0C, an operation from the Sovereign Military Order of Malta in Rome, Italy, which is a separate DXCC entity.

Having previously worked 1A0KM in 2011, it was not a new DXCC for me, but did provide the opportunity to fill out some slots. Congrats to the 58 EIs who made it into the log. Top of the list were, as follows: Ark EI9KC (18 slots), Anthony EI2KC (12 slots), Don EI6IL (11 slots), Erik EI4KF (10), Declan EI4GJB (10), Bernard EI4II (9), Peter EI7CC (9), Declan EI6FR (9), and there were four ops with eight slots apiece, namely Niall EI4CF, Jim EI9GLB, Ger EI4GXB and Malcolm EI8FH.

### JX9JKA, Jan Mayen Island

Some time ago I reported that future ham activity on JX Jan Mayen would be limited due to newly imposed restrictions on the island. However, Svein JX9JKA has been active for the past number of months on Jan Mayen and will continue to be QRV there until March of 2013. This has given many of us the opportunity to put this relatively rare one into the log. In July 2011, the JX50 DXpedition to Jan Mayen had to be cut short due to inclement conditions at sea which required their vessel to leave a number of days early. Thankfully, Svein has allowed some of us who missed slots with JX50 to fill out the logs. At this stage, I have worked JX9JKA on every band from 40m through 6m, all on SSB.

It appears Svein does not do much CW.

### YE0M, Indonesia

Although not a rare DXCC, the YE0M DXpedition to Indonesia in July put the skills of some EI ops to the test. This was an IOTA activation, from Kaliage Besar Island, Seribu Islands, IOTA OC-177. 20 EIs made it into the log. The top ten were: EI6IL, EI4II, EI9JU, EI2KC, EI0CZ, EI4CF, EI6FR, EI5JC, EI9HX and EI9KC.

### 9M4SLL, Spratly

Following on from the 9M0L DXpedition to Spratly Islands in April this year, it was both surprising and pleasing to see 9M4SLL popping up in August from the same DXCC.

In my case, the later DXpedition allowed me to nab Spratly on 12 metres, where I did not have this rare one, the 51<sup>st</sup> most wanted DXCC according to [www.clublog.org](http://www.clublog.org).

I am unable to find an online log for 9M4SLL so cannot tell how many EIs made it. Well done to all who worked Spratly.

### TT8PK, Chad

This one cropped up in June when Philippe F4EGS was active from the African country of Chad for a few weeks. Although there is an online log, it is searchable only, with no league tables, but a quick perusal reveals that a number of Irish amateurs got into Philippe's log. Congrats to all.

### CY9M, St. Paul Island

The very recent one-week CY9M DXpedition to St. Paul Island, which is near Newfoundland, presented some EI ops with an opportunity to bag a new country, while others were content to fill out slots. Being just a short hop (hi hi) across the Atlantic, CY9M would not be a difficult one for EI. The pile-ups were intense though, and it was a challenge at times to get through.

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60 Irish amateurs made it into the log. Congrats to all. Here's the top ten: Ark EI9KC (12 slots), Don EI6IL (9), Nicky EI9JF (9), Dave EI9FBB (8), Declan EI4GJB (7), Eoin EI9O (6), Michal EI3KG (6), Anthony EI2KC (6), Trevor EI2GLB (5) and Ger EI4GXB (5). Also on five slots were John EI7BA and Erik EI4KF.

### Reports from Ireland's DXers

It is a long-running tradition of HF Happenings to feature reports from various dedicated and enthusiastic HF operators and DXers from around EI. I am delighted to receive these reports, which give an overview of the sort of DX that Ireland's hams are putting into their logs.

**John Tait EI7BA** reports that 'It's been a wet but interesting Summer here. Conditions not great on HF or VHF, but I did manage a couple of new countries on 6 and 4m. My best DX on 6m being LU5FF. CY9M filled a couple of missing slots for me, 160m and RTTY. Unfortunately nothing heard of him on 6m. YE0M was a new one on 160m. He was surprisingly easy to work, as there was little EU QRM. Obviously lots of guys believe that the Low Bands are no good in summertime. Not so!'

'For anyone who missed any slots from 9M0L, Spratly Is 9M4SLL, is easy enough to work at the moment, . They are a "low key" operation, so the pileups aren't too bad.'

**Ark EI9KC** reports, among other things, that he worked CY9M on 160m, using just a windom antenna! Brilliant work Ark. Here is his contribution:

Unfortunately I couldn't attend EJ0PL on EU-103 for IOTA Contest 2012 this year. I decided to run some contest QSOs from my QTH. Managed just 100 QSOs, but that's because I was chasing St. Paul Island all night on several low bands! Tweets from CY9M announced 80m operation that night.

Instead of working in the IOTA Contest I decided to wait on 3.526 for them. Earlier on I had managed to log them on 30m CW. At around 2:00am St. Paul Island was in my log on 80m CW! Great! How about 160m then? I have USA and Canada on TB why not try this one?

I am not well prepared for Top Band so far. Using just a windom antenna without any beverages DXing on 160m is a challenge for me! In the middle of the night I heard the signal from CY9M on 160m was quite good. The pile-up from EU was strong ... I had no chance at that moment. So I decided to take little nap and try at our sunrise. And it was good idea! 5:00 in the morning here their signal was beautiful on TB. Lonely signal from St. Paul Island ... CQ CQ CQ CY9M up 3 ... and here we go. I had repeat my call three times ... and finally EI9KC 599! Big surprise for me.

Shortly after TB QSO seen spots on 40m SSB as CY9M operated there for IOTA Contest. Massive signal +20dB on my dipole. Much more prefer CW than SSB but 40m will be nice to complete bands slots. It wasn't easy on 40m but finally logged!

**Don EI6IL** has been enjoying using his three-element SteppIR with just 100 watts or less from his FT-2000 to notch up some very nice DX. He reports: 'EI land appears to be in big demand in particular on 15m and 17m late at night with great openings to the USA. South America open most nights leading into the early hours on 17m with 20m band remaining open all

through the night.'

'Made a few contacts while on holiday as EA7/EI6IL during July which was interesting working from Southern Europe.'

'I don't have many contacts on 6 meters. Worked a few pile-ups with Steppir but found a homebrew delta loop to be a better antenna at times. Delighted to make my first transatlantic CW QSO on 6 meters.'

Here is an extract from Don's log showing the nice DX he has been logging: A5A (Bhutan) 10 Slots SSB/CW; 1A0C (Order of Malta) 11 Band slots including 6 meters and 3 RTTY contacts using 50 watts. YE0M (Kaliage Besar Island IOTA # OC 177) 9 band slots. HK3C (Colombia) 15m SSB (10 Watts), Big station and very workable for any EI station. TO2D (St. Barthelemy NA-146) 3 Slots. CY9M (St Paul Island NA-094) 9 band slots. D64K (Comoros Isl.) 5 slots at time of writing. 9M4SLL (Spratly Isl.) 4 slots at time of writing. EJ0PL (Saltee Isl EU-103) 15m SSB, congrats on a great operation.

VU2DK 15m SSB (India); ST2UOK 15m SSB (Sudan); YB2MVD 15m SSB (Indonesia); 9M6TMT 15m SSB (East Malaysia); P29FR 15m SSB (Papua New Guinea); VP2ETE 15m SSB (Anguilla); A71AM 15m SSB (Qatar); JX9JKA 20m SSB/CW (Jan Mayen Isl. EU-022); ZD7DL 20m SSB (St Helena Island); ET3SID 20m SSB (Ethiopia); HS5NMF 20m SSB (Thailand); RI0K 20m SSB/CW (Ratmanova (Big Diomedes) Island IOTA expedition - AS-061). T6JP 20m RTTY (Afghanistan) 50 Watts; V85AVE 20m SSB (Brunei); 9M6JC 20m SSB (East Malaysia); DV8BQI 20m SSB (Philippines); WH7W 17m SSB/CW (Hawaii); KH0N 17m CW (Saipan Northern Mariana); T6MO 17m CW/PSK31 (Afghanistan) 20Watts; BU2AW 17m CW (Taiwan); TT8PK 17m CW (Chad); OX3XR 17m CW (Greenland); KH2L 12m CW (Guam); 6Y5WJ 12m CW (Jamaica); RI1ANF 12m CW (King George Island, South Shetland).

### Forthcoming DXpeditions

#### CY0, Sable Island

WA4DAN and AA4VK are excited to announce that they have received approvals from "Parks Canada", "Canadian Coast Guard", and "Officer-in-Charge, Sable Island" to operate amateur radio from October 8 – 17, 2012.

They note, however, that their permit to operate includes several new restrictions on antennas (in addition to the traditional restrictions for Sable). The purpose of these restrictions are to minimize the environmental impact on the migratory bird population that may be present during the period they are on Sable Island. This will be their third attempt to get onto the island, following postponements in December 2010 and December 2011.

#### PY0S/St. Peter and Paul Rocks

The Araucaria DX Group, in conjunction with the TX3A Team, is pleased to announce a DXpedition to St. Peter and St. Paul Rocks, PY0S, under the call sign PT0S. The PT0S DXpedition will be on the air from approximately November 10th to 22nd, 2012. (Like all things maritime, the exact dates of their travel to the rocks will be subject to the weather and issues related to the boat.) There has been an official ban on Amateur Radio activities from PY0S.

Although the ban, which was created for environmental and safety reasons, remains in place, the Araucaria DX Group was

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given a special permit by Brazil's SECIRM (Secretaria da Comissao Interministerial para Os Recursos do Mar), the Brazilian Navy, Ministry of Environment and LABRE to conduct a two week long operation. The operation will have a strong low band focus. There will be a dedicated 160 meter station operating on 160 meters from sunset to sunrise. A second station will be on 80 and 40 meters at night. During the day we will operate two stations on the higher bands -- and 6 meters -- based on conditions. RTTY will also be supported.

### **E51, South Cook Islands**

Yoshi, JJ8DEN is QRV until August 17th as E51AIU from Atiu Island, Aitutaki Group OC-083, South Cook Islands. Look for him on 160m – 10m CW, RTTY, PSK31, JT65A. QSL via JJ8DEN.

### **VK9X, Christmas Island**

Pekka, OH2YY, announces: 'Last November a rescheduling of flights, caused by bad weather, cut my operation at Christmas Island very short. I have now decided to return to Christmas and re-activate VK9XM in early October this year. The schedule for the operation is from Oct. 6th (ca. 12Z) to Oct. 12th (ca. 24Z). I will be active on frequencies 7-28MHz. I will QSL 100% either direct or via SRAL QSL bureau. Direct QSL's to my home address: Pekka Ahlqvist OH2YY, Vapaalanpolku 8B, 01650 Vantaa, Finland.'

### **3D2, Conway Reef**

3D2C press release: After many months of careful planning, we are pleased to announce that our preparations for a large multi-national DXpedition to Conway Reef are going according to plan. Conway Reef is located in the South Pacific Ocean and is #35 on Club Log's most wanted DXCC list. The Team is meeting in Lami Bay, Suva and departing by ship to Conway Reef on September 24th. The Team expects to arrive at Conway Reef and become active on September 26th. They will complete their DXpedition on October 5th, 2012. The main goals of this DXpedition are to work every amateur radio operator who needs Conway Reef for a new DXCC country. In addition, they will be active on all bands from 1.8 MHz to 144 MHz, including the 5MHz and 50 MHz bands. They will be active on CW, SSB and RTTY. Special attention will be made to work far away stations such as Europe and Africa during those periods when propagation permits. The propagation window for EU and Africa is very brief at times and signals may be weak, so they ask everyone in the honored HAM SPIRIT to stand by when asked so that they may fulfill this need. their destination will have a wide range of options and possibilities. More information at: <http://www.yt1ad.info/3d2c/index.html>

### **ZL9, Campbell Island**

The Hellenic Amateur Radio of Association of Australia (HARAOA) is organising a DXpedition to ZL9 Campbell Island (OC-037) New Zealand between November 28th and December 9th 2012.

ZL9 Campbell Island NZ is Number 15 on the current DXCC most wanted list. The ZL9HR DXpedition team will consist of a total of ten (10) team members. See more details at the DXpedition website: <http://www.campbell2012.com/>

### **KH8S, Swains Is.**

Craig, K9CT, and Joe, W8GEX, are happy to report that

preparations for the NH8S Swains Island DXpedition are on schedule. The 20 man international team should be on the island from September 4, thru September 17. Swains is # 31 most wanted worldwide. They will operate all bands with SSB, CW and RTTY. There will be a great emphasis placed in working Europe where Swains is most needed. they will have several receiving antennas aimed that direction. See more information at their website: <http://www.nh8s.org/>

As always, for information about DX, see [www.dx-world.net](http://www.dx-world.net), the OPDX bulletin at <http://www.papays.com/opdx.html>, [www.dxcffee.com](http://www.dxcffee.com), and [www.dailydx.com](http://www.dailydx.com).

### **Other news**

#### **V73, Marshall Island**

Neil Schwanitz, V73NS, reports: "Returned to OC-028 in November 2011 and became active March 2012 with a temporary antenna. Have a 40/20 dipole up 10 meters high. Have pulleys in palm trees and will put up a multiband antenna (80m OCF dipole) in the near future. Will be active here for several years from the island of Roi Namur". Neil has already been worked in EI, and hopefully many more of you will get his call in your logs.

#### **E6, Niue**

On August 3, the ITU updated its Table of International Call Sign Series to reflect a call sign change for Niue. The island will now have the entire E6 prefix block.

Niue - an island approximately 1700 miles northeast of New Zealand - is a self-governing island nation that has been in free association with New Zealand since 1974. Prior to the change, the island used ZK2.

Niue, which is about 1.5 times the size of Washington, DC, has a population of almost 600 people.

#### **Clublog Most Wanted DXCC list updated**

KP1, Navassa Island has overtaken P5, North Korea as the number one most wanted DXCC entity in Clublog's new list, which was updated as we went to press.

In third place is VP8H, South Sandwich, followed by 3Y/B Bouvet, FT8W Crozet, VK0H Heard Island (from which there is a planned DXpedition in 2014), FT8Z Amsterdam and St. Paul, KH5K Kingman Reef, FT/T Tromelin and FT/J Juan de Nova & Europa.

See the full list at <http://www.clublog.org/mostwanted.php>

#### **Contact details**

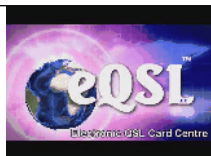
That's it for now folks. Last issue I announced a 'shack visit' feature but I have since become unemployed. This is very much a feature I would like to include, and perhaps if any of you want to share some photos and information about your setups, I would be glad to publish them. I can be contacted, as always, at [hamradioireland@gmail.com](mailto:hamradioireland@gmail.com), and if you need to get me on the phone I am on 086-8335055.

In the meantime, we are spoilt for choice with DXpeditions and rare ones, so enjoy your time on HF and don't forget to pop me a line about the great entities you are putting in your log!

73 and Slán go Fóil,  
Anthony EI2KC



## EQSL The road to 200 by EI9O



### The Purpose of EQSL.cc

eQSL.cc is the first and only global electronic QSL card exchange for amateur radio operators and SWLs. It is designed to be the fastest, easiest, and cheapest way to exchange QSO confirmations, eliminating the cost and time that regular QSL cards have required for the past half century. With a larger membership than the entire ARRL, eQSL.cc is THE place where everyone exchanges QSLs quickly and easily.

A little over a year ago I set myself a goal to be the second EI to achieve 200+ Counties worked in the eDX100 Mixed section. This I knew was not going to be easy, as at the time I was well down the list at 153 and long was from John EI7BA the only other EI operator over the 200 mark.

Now normally one would say 200 is easy considering I have worked over 300 DXCC Countries using normal QSL cards, but EQSL is different.

Why is that? Number of reasons but mainly:

- 1) A large portion of the DXCC entities can have less than 2 "active" EQSL AG call signs per entity, some have none.
- 2) Of those that use EQSL a large number refuse or don't bother to get "AG" approved, this means that their call sign is not recognised for an award.
- 3) Those that are EQSL "AG" approved even after you have a QSO and send an EQSL confirmation, don't reciprocate the EQSL.

So one can see from the above that to set a high target like 200 from 153 is not an easy task as when you reach close to the 200 mark you are normally getting EQSL's from countries that can be classified as "rare".

Back in March this year I crossed the 200 mark, today I stand at 206.

### CASHOTA- IRELAND and CASHOTA

Castles and Stately Homes on the Air, will be holding its 2nd annual Heritage Month, throughout the last two weeks of August to encompass the Irish heritage Fortnight and the whole of September for the many UK dates and regions.

This award is open to anyone wishing to take apart either as an activating station or heritage chaser.

All details of this event and CASHOTAS many other awards and events can be found at [www.cashota.co.uk](http://www.cashota.co.uk), with details for contacting the CASHOTA-Ireland Representative also being listed on the contacts page for Irish locations.

## Radio News Input

to  
**[newsteam@irts.ie](mailto:newsteam@irts.ie)**

**Deadline for Radio News - Thursday 1200**

## Cork Radio Club Raffle



Don Kelly EI8DJ with Jeremy Sheehan EI5GM Chairman Cork Radio Club.

Jack O'Connell EI7HO kindly donated the latest editions of the ARRL Handbook and the ARRL Antenna Book to the club and Don was the lucky winner of the raffle.

## South Eastern Amateur Radio Group

### Vintage Rally Display

The annual Vintage Valley in Inistioge, Co Kilkenny took place on Sunday the 5<sup>th</sup> August. There was a large crowd in attendance and a great day was had by all. There was a large collection of vintage tractors, cars and bikes on display.

The SEARG display proved very popular with young and old alike. They had many visitors to the display including Jim, EI4CP and Paul, EI3ENB. The display of old vintage radio's brought many people back down memory lane.

People were also amazed at Mark's (EI7IS) ability of using CW to communicate with a station in France.

It was a special day too for the club's PRO Sean who is a SWL and radio enthusiast when he got to work his first few 40 Metre contacts using the EI2WRC/P under club supervision.

SEARG would like to thank Roy and the organisers of the Inistioge Vintage Rally for inviting us to put on the radio display and they look forward to returning in 2013.

They also would like to thank Mick, EI7GH for manufacturing and donating a 40/80 metre trapped dipole to the club.

### IRTS Counties Contest

On Sunday 17th of June. SEARG participated in the IRTS counties contest form Tankardstown on the Copper Coast Geopark in Co. Waterford.

This is the same location that the club uses for it's annual participation in the Geopark Communications Weekend. SEARG would like to thank Paula McCarthy of the Copper Coast Geopark management for once again allowing us to use this great site.



# My 3 Year Battle Against Local RF Electrical Noise

by  
Ciaran Culligan EI7GSB

After being a short wave listener for many years I finally decided to go for my amateur radio licence and I received my callsign in July 2009.

For the first time at my current QTH I put up a windom dipole and bought a new HF transceiver, having previously only used a portable shortwave receiver with a BFO.

Living in a housing estate I expected some noise issues but I was highly dismayed at the high noise levels on the HF bands and sought ways to improve the situation.

This article is a summary of my experiences in fighting QRN problems from electronic devices within my own home and in the surrounding neighbourhood. I am not an expert in the field of EMC but since I had so many different noise issues in the last 3 years I felt it necessary to share my experiences and hopefully offer other radio users some ideas or solutions to their own electrical noise problems.

## RF noise in my own home

After first installing choke baluns at my antenna feedpoints I set about finding sources of electrical noise within my own home. Using a portable shortwave and by plugging devices in and out I quickly identified all sorts of problems within my own house.

1. Switch mode charger units on the cordless phones were causing s6-7 broadband white noise on 40m. These were disposed of and replaced with 9v DC linear transformer units.
2. Switch-mode charger for my cheap import MP3 player caused a horrible cracking noise on 40 and 80m. I disposed of this and charged my MP3 player using a USB connection to my laptop instead.
3. The TV set-top box caused noise at a spot frequency in the middle of the 40m band but after installing ferrite chokes on the DC supply cable and the coax lead from the set-top box to the TV antenna the noise disappeared.

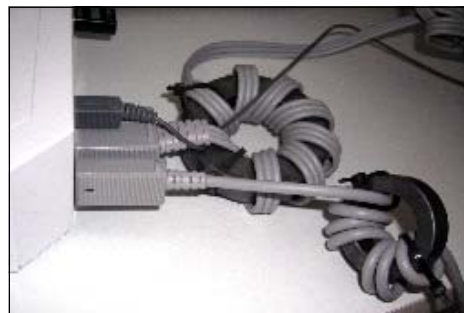
4. My son's games console created elevated broadband white noise on 40m and 20m. I managed to reduce the noise levels from the console by making ferrite chokes on the DC supply cable, the AV out cable and by inserting a mains filter on the console's power supply. **See Fig 1.** I suspected that some of the noise was directly radiated from the unit so in an attempt to further reduce the noise I covered the unit in aluminium foil and connected it to mains earth. This surprisingly was a mistake and actually increased the noise back to s7. Doing this just provided a new path for the RF noise to travel along, namely all the earth wiring in the house.

5. My 26" CRT TV caused an s4 buzz noise on the 20m band. I tried putting a mains filter on the main input lead but the noise persisted even when I disconnected the scart lead between the TV and the set-top box. I eventually replaced that TV with a LCD flatscreen TV and the problem went away.

6. Following the success of the LCD TV I decided to purchase a small LCD TV for the bedroom and believed this should be electrically quite. Wrong. It caused an s5 broadband noise across the 17m band. After some experimentation I found the noise disappeared when the coax lead to the TV antenna was disconnected. The TV was radiating rf noise up the coax lead. I installed a high pass TVI filter on the TV. **See Fig 2.** A high pass filter highly attenuates HF signals entering the TV while passing VHF and UHF signals. It also worked perfectly in reverse by completely blocking the HF noise emitted from the TV. The s5 noise on 17m returned to below s1 after the filter was installed.

## RF noise from neighbour A

After sorting out rf noise sources in my own house, I found a problem on 40m from neighbour A's house. A warbling



**Fig 1.** Chokes installed at back of the games console, FT240-43 on the AV out, FT140-43 on DC input

pulsing sound was evident 24/7 at 3 kHz intervals between 7 and 10 Mhz. I identified the direction and source of the noise with the portable shortwave receiver. I approached my neighbour about the issue and found him very understanding as he owns a portable scanner and listens to aircraft and other services on VHF.

So we looked around his house to find the source with the portable radio but every time we came near any mains wiring the noise got very strong which made identification of the source difficult. Finally we went to the fuseboard and shut the power down. Then one by one we flipped each trip switch until we identified the upstairs sockets as the problem area.

After plugging out every visible electrical item upstairs the noise was still present. When we just were about to give up and I felt embarrassed about invading my neighbour's home, a mobile phone charger was discovered under a bed. This charger was left plugged in continuously. The noise it created was persistent even when not connected to the phone. It was agreed that the charger only be used when required and later I bought him a replacement clean charger. That noise never reappeared.



**Fig 2.** Mains filter bought for 2 Euros at the Limerick rally, High-pass TVI filter and FT140-43 ferrite ring

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Sometime later I became interested in digi-modes and the 30m band. This band had a reasonably low background noise level until I noticed a certain pattern emerge.

On Friday nights an S9 swooshing noise which was about 10 KHz wide would move up and down the 30m band. After monitoring 30m at different times of the day for a period of a few weeks I found that the noise always started on Friday night, was present at various times over the weekend but was absent from Monday morning to Friday evening.

Using a homebrew magnetic loop antenna I located the source at neighbour A's house. I reluctantly approached my neighbour again and after some discussions he revealed that his son was not allowed to use his laptop on school nights and only used it at weekends.

A quick check verified that his son's laptop charger was indeed the problem. Curiously the offending charger had no manufacturer's label or CE mark. I suspect it was not the original charger that came with the laptop. Luckily I had an old laptop charger of the same voltage which I happily swapped for the offending charger. I promptly disposed of the offending charger.

Another problem solved.

### RF noise from neighbour B

Earlier this year I came home from work and noticed an alarm co. van outside neighbour B's house. An alarm system had just been installed.

Being suspicious of all new things electronic I switched on my rig and was greeted with noise at S9 on 15m, S7 on 17m, S6 on 20m, S on 30m all occurring at 27 KHz intervals with a lower level of broadband hash between the peaks.

I called to neighbour B and politely asked him about the alarm and requested his permission to call the installer with a view to rechecking the installation for interference problems and he agreed. I rang the alarm installer and he was somewhat skeptical and had difficulty believing my story.

I then contacted Brendan EI6IZ, the IRTS EMC officer, who gave me some very well informed official information relating to the EMC directive and manufacturers/installer responsibilities.

After e-mailing Brendan's information to the installer I got a prompt reply from the installer saying he would do everything possible to solve the problem.



**Fig 3.** FT140-43 ferrite core with 20 turns of twisted telephone cable solved RFI from alarm system control panel.

The installer called the alarm manufacturer and their response was unhelpful stating that their alarm system was fully compliant and they would defend that position in court if necessary. The installer called in to me a couple of days later and together we conducted a few tests on the wireless alarm control panel, the sounder box and a battery charger unit for the sounder box. The problem was coming from the wireless control panel but only when the telephone line was connected to it. Once connected the telephone line going to the upstairs extension became a good vertical noise radiating antenna. I gave the installer a spare FT140-43 ferrite ring I had in my toolbox and wound approx 20 twisted turns of telephone wire around it. **See Fig 3.** He installed it on the telephone input to the alarm panel. It worked. The noise on 15, 20 and 30m disappeared and I was left with only a couple of s2 narrow band noise peaks on 17m. Another case successfully solved. However in a newer part of the housing estate the last hundred or so houses built were fitted with the exact same alarm system. Imagine trying to operate ham radio from that part of the estate.

### A unknown noise source on 40m

In early 2011 a new invader appeared on the 40m band. The noise was centered around 7.060 and 7.150 MHz with a wide



**Fig 4.** Noise phase cancellation unit with my Yaesu FT-450AT

bandwidth. It varied from a constant s7 buzz to a randomly pulsing noise sometimes reaching s9+.

With my portable shortwave and magnetic loop, I found that it was coming from somewhere east of my QTH.

I could not pin-point the exact source and was not prepared to call to houses of people I did not know. After doing some research on the internet on noise phase cancellation techniques, I decided to purchase a WIMO QRM Eliminator.

**See Fig 4.** This unit mixes the signals from your main antenna and an auxiliary noise sense antenna. The principle of operation is that if the noise source is local then it will be picked up by both antennas at a different phase. Using the phase controls on the unit it's possible to create a 180 degree phase cancellation of the noise while not affecting the wanted signal too much. I used my windom as the main antenna and my inverted L as a noise sense antenna and now I can effectively eliminate the 40m noise problem with the flick of a switch.

I uploaded a 1 minute demo of this on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com).

Search for EI7GSB on the site to view the demo.

### Summary

On 40-10m even with simple low height wire antennas, I can hear and therefore work DX more effectively than before and all my efforts have finally paid off. Unfortunately 80m is still almost unusable and is full of plasma TV buzzes, broadband hash and switchmode power supply noises in the S7 – S9+10dB range, none of it originating in my own house.

So here is my final advice to any ham radio operator or swl experiencing noise problems.

1. Fix all the problems in your own home first. For details on making common-mode chokes and filters Read <http://audiosystemsgroup.com/RFI-Ham.pdf> and <http://www.yccc.org/Articles/W1HIS/Common-ModeChokesW1HIS2006Apr06.pdf>
2. Purchase ferrite rings and keep a few in your toolbox. You'll probably need them.
3. Keep on good terms with your neighbours. You may need their help in solving noise problems originating in their houses.

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

4. Contact the IRTS EMC officer for advice.
5. Try horizontal antennas instead of vertical. At my QTH noise levels are 2 s-points higher in general using vertical antennas compared to my horizontal wire antennas.
6. Try noise phase cancellation if you are sure the noise is from a single local source. You will need to invest in the unit as well as putting in some experimentation time in setting up and getting the noise sense antenna to work properly.
7. If you can't operate from home, try mobile or portable operation. Field days are fun.
8. Consider remote control. A remote receiver and antenna at an electrically quiet location could be controlled over the internet while maintaining your transmitter at home. Refer to EI6AL's excellent article in the December 2011 edition of Echo Ireland entitled "From Dublin to the Boggeragh Mountains-Remote Control Station".
9. The fight against consumer electronic QRN is never over. Any one of your neighbours could bring home a new toy that's going to cause you grief.
10. Don't give up.

Ciaran Culligan EI7GSB

### South Dublin Radio Club

South Dublin Radio Club meetings have resumed on Tuesdays from 8.00 pm to 10.00 pm in the Ballyroan Community Centre, Marian Road, Rathfarnham. New members and visitors are always welcome.

Ballyroan Community Centre is holding an Open Day, to enable users of the community centre to showcase their activities on Tuesday August 28th at 1930.

SDR, along with IRTS, will have a stand at this event,

## AREN North East

An AREN (Amateur Radio Emergency Network) group recently set up in the north east and coordinated by Tony EI4DIB has begun training activities and recently took part in a running event where they provided radio communications.

The new AREN group consists of several amateurs from the Drogheda and Skerries areas. In July, the group assisted at the Clogherhead 10k run where they provided radio communications. The day proved very successful, with a total of eight fixed posts, two bicycle mobile and one motorcycle mobile units taking part. The group was able to assist Gardaí by providing information in relation to the whereabouts of the tail end runners, enabling roads that had been closed for the event to reopen sooner. Indeed the organisers of the event and the emergency services were very glad to have their participation.

Weekly training, coordinated by EI4DIB, commenced about six weeks ago and has included message handling, GPS use and radio procedure skills. Training locations included an area called The Glen at Newfoundwell, Drogheda, and at Clogherhead beach. Future training exercises are planned at other locations.



AREN volunteers at the Clogherhead event (:L-R): Seamus EI3KE, Jim EI2HJB, Brian EI8EJB and Pat EI2HX.

The AREN North East group is delighted to have received a donation of a number of Motorola handheld units for 2 metres and also 70 centimetres.

These handhelds have been used during training exercises.

On the most recent exercise (before going to print), messages were passed from a mock AREN controller through a relay station on UHF and then passed to a second station on VHF.

Anyone interested in participating in the AREN North East group should contact Tony EI4DIB at [ei4dib@gmail.com](mailto:ei4dib@gmail.com) or on Twitter at [twitter.com/ARENNorthEast](https://twitter.com/ARENNorthEast).



Some of the AREN volunteers who took part in the Clogherhead 10k run event. EI2JD, EI9GTB, 2I0MMT, Stephan SWL, EI2KC, EI8EJB, EI2HJB, EI3KE, EI2HX, EI4DIB

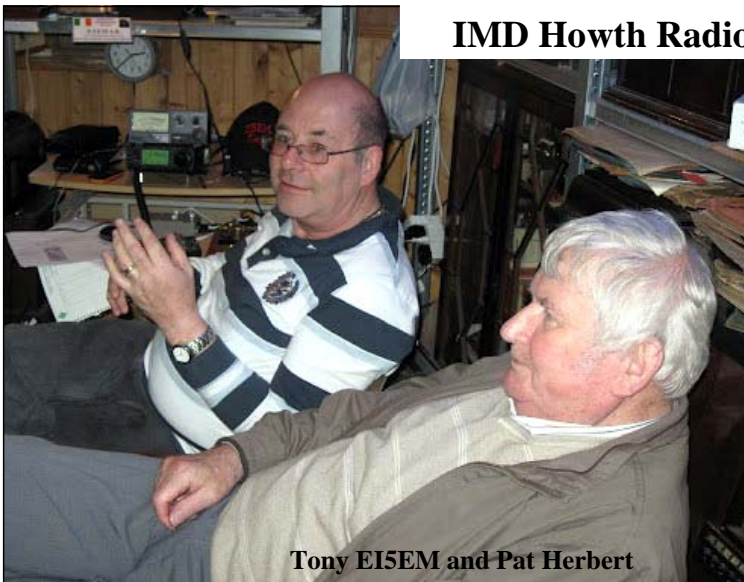


## IRTS President Séamus McCague EI8BP Visits ARRL HQ



Pictures:- Top left: One of the W1AW towers: Top right: Séamus EI8BP with ARRL CEO Dave Sumner K1ZZ:  
Bottom left: The equipment at W1AW used to send news bulletins: Bottom right: One of the three operating "suites" at W1AW.  
Seamus operated the Kenwood TS-590 in the right of the picture and had a FB QSO with Peter EI7CC on 14MHz CW

## IMD Howth Radio Museum 2012



Tony EI5EM and Pat Herbert



John EI7JG



# Galway VHF Group AREN Operation for the Connemara Marathon

Report by Steve EI5DD

The Connemara marathon took place on Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> of August.

An early start dictated that the operators taking part would be required to arrive at the Maam Community Centre between 0730 and 0800 whilst the registrations were taking place.

The primary frequency of operation chosen for the day was 3750 KHz due to the mountainous terrain over which the event was to take place.

Whilst walkers were getting ready for their bus journey to the start in Leenane, the checkpoint teams and operators headed to their locations.

Civil defence were stationed at Checkpoints 3, 4 and 5 as these were the most likely points where fatigued walkers may drop out or injuries may occur.

**John, EI7FAB**, was stationed near Lillary Harbour at checkpoint 1, at sea level and in a very disadvantaged spot for radio communications.

**Steve, EI5DD**, was located at Checkpoint 2 in a small quarry on the Leenane road. This spot was significantly higher and yet surrounded by mountains also. Initial communications between checkpoints 1 and 2 were good and readable strength 9. **Tom EI2GP** was still mobile and heading towards the Inagh Valley to Checkpoint 3 and coming in at a constant good and readable strength to checkpoints 1 and 2.

In the mean time **Gerry, EI8DRB**, was in transit towards Checkpoint 4 which is located not far from Recess and on the Maumeen road.

On his call in to the net the signal

strengths were a good strength 9 to all checkpoints.

With checkpoint staff all in position the event was underway by 0830.

From this point onwards, updated information concerning walkers taking part was passed on to each checkpoint. If anyone should drop out due to injury or exhaustion the next checkpoints were advised and deleted from their list.

There were personnel at the back of each walk who acted as sweepers and would advise the checkpoint operators, via PMR radios, when all participants had passed through.

As the walk progressed, a second batch of walkers commenced a half marathon starting at checkpoint 3.

The total number of walkers was 170 by this time.

When all walkers had passed through the first checkpoint, the operator from Checkpoint 1 would travel to Checkpoint 5 which was located at the base of the Maumeen.

When Checkpoint 2 was cleared and all information passed to Checkpoint 3 the operator and walk marshals transferred to Checkpoint 6 which was on the far side of the Maumeen and at the 22 mile marker. There was time to stop off for lunch at this point as walkers had spread out over the distance.

Some of those running the course were well ahead whilst there was a long tail-back of walkers.

Checkpoint 6 took a long time to clear as walkers had become well spread out over the course of the event. Checkpoint 5 actually cleared the last walkers through at 1645 meaning that the last of the walkers would be coming off the hills at around 1815.

With the fine weather and dry conditions underfoot, there were no serious injuries and the day was generally uneventful. Only 2 walkers dropped out during the



event and all were accounted for by efficient checkpoint staff.

The communications were excellent for the entire day with very little continental QRM for the duration of the event.

The natural choice of HF for such an operation was justified due to the terrain in the area. At times communications paths were obscured by two mountain ranges; the Maamturks and the Twelve Pins. It would take a lot of imagination to guarantee communications from point to point on VHF or UHF under such circumstances.

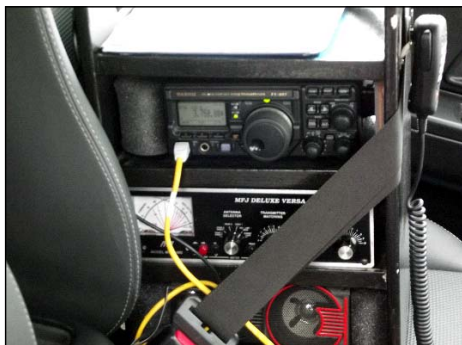
## Why do the Galway VHF Group use HF?

As has been found on many occasions, it is possible to reduce the number of radio personnel required by using HF. It is really pointless setting up a series of relay operators or indulging in expensive portable repeaters when each operator can communicate directly with others throughout the area of operation by using HF.



In the early days of communicating across wide areas covered by car rallies, using VHF, it had been necessary to employ at least two operators strategically placed on elevated sites to cover the entire area. As was normally the case, the

*(Continued on page 17)*





(Continued from page 16)

locations of the emergency services on a rally stage seldom permitted direct communications with more than one other stage let alone the Chief Medical officer's vehicle which was constantly on the move..

West Galway is a mountainous area and many of our events take place amongst



the hills and mountains. VHF operation is suited to flat near line of sight operation and for these we can use VHF handhelds and mobile sets as we would for 40% of our operations. The choice of 80 metres was perfect as the terrain was not suited to VHF or UHF communications.

80 metres can produce an adequate ground-wave communication path throughout mountainous terrain. We have often linked small clones of VHF operators to others via HF with a control station for each unit. This has been used many times in conjunction with our local Civil Defence unit.

The FT817 has been used at the top of a hill or mountain with good results from 80 metres, using just 5 watts, and an MP2 portable screw driver antenna. Whilst the mountain top would appear to be the ideal spot for VHF, often this is not true. Why?

The reason that VHF or UHF may not work as well on top of a hill is due to the "plateau effect" where areas below are obscured from view and do not benefit from the high site.

It is easier to communicate to an area in the next county but certainly not immediately below in the valley without making a special trip to the side of the hill in question. 80 metres, having a longer wavelength, does not suffer from such effects.



whips on Top-Band with impressive results. Good results have been obtained from the middle of Co. Galway to the middle of Co. Mayo using Top-Band.

Relying on established hill top repeaters is not always possible for a multitude of reasons. It is possible that there may be a power outage or the repeater in question may be down for maintenance purposes on the occasion when it is needed the most.

No point in leaving things to chance.

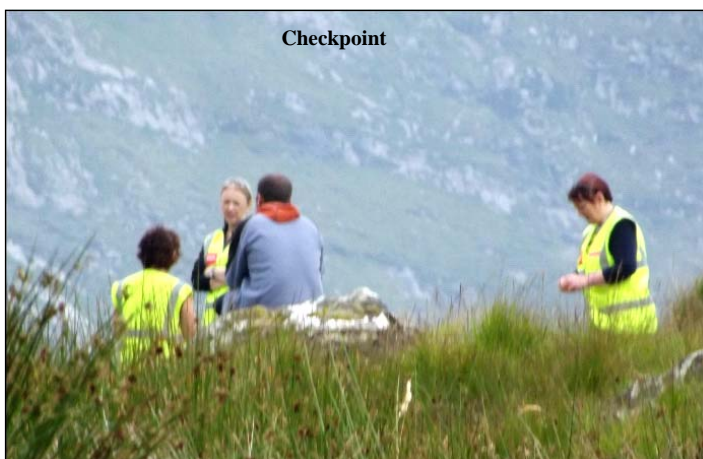
It is worthwhile mentioning the use of mobile phones as part of the operation. The majority of phone towers are not placed on the highest spots in a mountain range.

Mobile phone towers are designed to operate with phones located at ground level.

In many remote locations there is no service at all. On occasions it may be necessary to use a mobile phone to contact the Coastguard, Mountain Rescue, Ambulance Service or Gardai.

The only solution is to check with other operators within the group as to who has a connection to the mobile phone service and designate that operator as the link to the "outside world"

Steve EI5DD



If greater ground-wave paths were required, Top-Band would be the obvious choice although mobile antennas become a little more cumbersome at that frequency. Experiments were done using Pro-Am



# Operating in WSPR Mode

By  
Steve Wright EI5DD

Weak Signal Propagation Reporter (WSPR) is a software application written by Joe Taylor K1JT and was first released in April 2008. It uses the transmission mode MEPT-JT.

The "JT" is derived from Joe Taylor whilst MEPT is Manned Experimental Propagation Transmitter.

Once set up, operation of WSPR is completely automated.

The software logs every transmission made, as well as all the "spots" (decoded MEPT-JT signals) received.

It is a mode one can have running in the background whilst indulging in other activities in the shack

Just how "hands-on" one needs to be when operating WSPR is a matter between you, your license authority and your conscience, but some people leave their WSPR beacons running 24/7 and some of that time, one assumes, they must be asleep or perhaps acute insomniacs.

The equipment for this experiment was quite simple - a Transceiver, a Data Modes Interface, and a Computer and not forgetting an omnidirectional antenna.

The station used for this experiment consisted of an Icom 756, A Tigertronics Data Modes Interface and a Laptop Computer running the K1JT WSPR software which is available from WSJT Homepage.

The only other requirement is that the computer's clock must be synchronised to an accurate time source. Dimension 4 is a down-loadable software that will set the computer's clock at regular intervals. This is necessary as, if the computer clock is out by more than 2 seconds, the software will not decode and transmissions will be out of synchronization.

Few other preparations are necessary other than setting the levels from the Data Mode Interface to produce a low power level in the order of one or two watts up to 5 watts from the transmitter. One can run more but there is little point - remember this is supposed to be a weak signal mode!

It does become a little obvious if you are being received by the whole world and only hearing a couple of stations. The perfect transceiver for this operation would be the FT817.

## Principal of Operation.

WSPR itself does not use slow Morse. The signal is frequency shift keying (FSK) with a very small shift and a very slow rate of transmission. In fact, some people have mistakenly thought that the software wasn't working because they listened to the signal and heard what sounded like a pure tone, with no modulation at all. The bandwidth occupied is only about 6 Hz, so many stations can operate within the 200Hz WSPR window without interference.

Each MEPT-JT transmission lasts for just under two minutes, and starts at the beginning of each even-numbered minute. It is important that all transmitters and receivers are in sync, so one of the fundamental pre-requisites of success with WSPR is an accurately set computer clock.

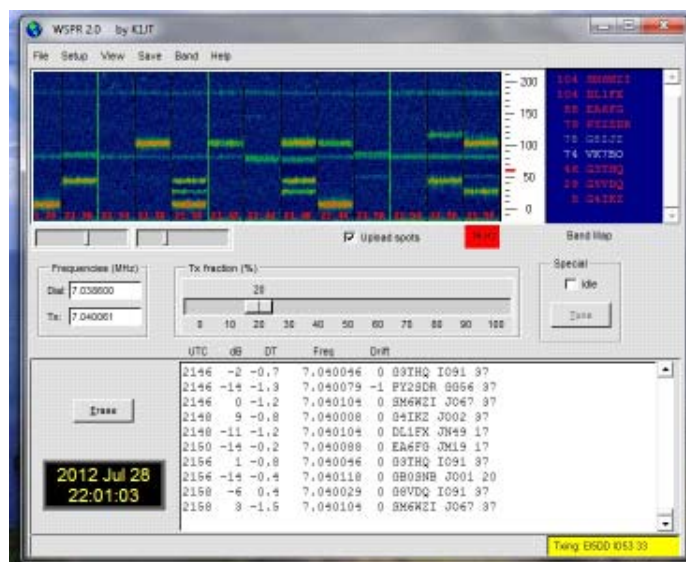
The beacon transmission contains the callsign, locator and power (in dBm.) The data is encoded to reduce the number of data bits needed, with the result that only standard callsigns can

be used - no prefixes, suffixes or special calls. Forward error correction is used to improve the chances of copy even under adverse conditions while eliminating false "spots".

The WSPR software incorporates both a receiver/decoder as well as a transmitter. How much transmitting you decide to do is up to you. It is not necessary to transmit at all, so this is an activity in which even SWLs can participate - and many do. Most operators set the software to transmit once in every four or five two-minute segments. This is a random probability, so that two stations which start off at the same time with the same probability will not always transmit in the same segment.

Setting up the Software is simple, The callsign, The power level in dB, The Locator, the Soundcard in use, and there are various settings if CAT control is used making it possible to set the frequency of the transceiver by clicking on the band in one of the pull down boxes.

The audio is sent out in the Upper Sideband mode. The actual signal bandwidth is only 6 Hz wide, and together with randomised time-sharing, ensures that dozens of stations may operate in a 2500Hz bandwidth. Typical power levels used can vary from milli-Watts to 5 watts expressed in dB e.g. 30dBm = 1 Watt, 33 dBm = 2 Watts, 37dBm = 5 Watts and so on.



**Fig1.** shows the main window of the WSPR Software which appears as the software is initiated.

The main window is subdivided into several smaller windows. To the top left, the waterfall is displayed showing the timed segments with the times marked in red at the bottom of each segment. They move from right to left. The green or green/orange lines represent the signals received.

Below this box to the left is the dial frequency of the Transceiver and the actual Transmit frequency. To the top right, the "decodes box" is displayed. this shows the frequency from the grey scale on the right of the waterfall pane and the callsign of the received station.

The large window at the bottom of the main window shows the spot details in the form of UTC time, the receive level in dBm, the time offset against the reference time, the frequency in MHz, the callsign, the locator and the power level transmitted by the received station. If the "upload spots" box is checked,

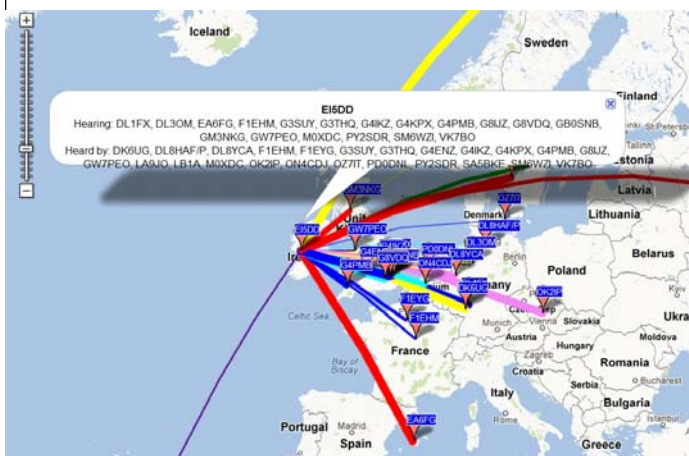


the software will automatically upload the reception reports to the WSPR website.

The small box at the bottom right shows when the station is transmitting receiving or decoding. To the bottom left a box will appear showing the receiver noise level.

After 10 minutes, log onto the main WSPR website <http://wsprrnet.org/drupal/> to see where your transmissions are being received. Small coloured lines will radiate from your callsign tab to other callsign tabs. A good sign! By clicking on your own callsign tab, a white box will appear showing stations that you are hearing and also the stations heard by you.

**Fig2.** shows the map derived from WSPR reports derived from stations around the globe. By selecting those relevant to your



callsign this is the typical information displayed. By clicking on your own callsign tab a box will expand to show all stations heard by your station and all callsigns received by your station. If you do not enter your callsign all stations participating in WSPR will be displayed on the map.

If the WSPR transmitter is run for a 24 hour period it is possi-

ble to ascertain the manner in which the signal has been propagated for the given band. The WSPR database on the website can provide a valuable source of information for in depth propagation studies.

The WSPR transmissions, in this instance were made on 40 meters over a 24 hour period starting at 20:00 UTC. By following the reception of stations it was possible to ascertain that the propagation of the 2 watt signal was mainly into Europe during the daylight hours and gradually found its path along the grey line into the USA. during the hours from 02:30 until 06:00 and an even more remarkable revelation were 2 way receptions to VK7BO at 07:40 UTC - also along the grey line. Strangely, the following day saw propagation into South America instead of North America.

In a previous experiment, during the winter months, a 2 way reception into Australia was achieved on 80 metres using only 2 Watts.

WSPR need not be confined to the HF bands and can be used on the VHF and UHF bands. Certainly results to date on the 6 meter band have revealed that even when the band is apparently closed it is still possible to get an odd spot just running 2 watts into a dipole.

Time to start putting out a few calls when this occurs!

1) Further Information may be gleaned from the WSPR website

<http://wsprrnet.org/drupal/>

2) The WSPR Software and Operating Manual may be obtained from

<http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/>

3) The Software for synchronising the computer's clock, Dimension 4 may be obtained

from <http://www.thinkman.com/dimension4/>

## International Lighthouse Weekend 2012

Five EI stations were listed as entries in the International Lighthouse Weekend on August 18th and 19th.

The DX Summit cluster shows spots for four of the EI entrants as follows:

Limerick Radio Club operated from Loop Head in County Clare.

The Mayo Radio Experimenters were active from Blacksod Lighthouse.

The Kerry Amateur Radio Group were on as usual from Cromwell Point Lighthouse on Valentia Island.

The North Cork Radio Group activated Roche's Point Lighthouse at the entrance to Cork Harbour.

The Lighthouse continues to grow in popularity and this years event had 472 entrants in 47 countries. This event is always held over the third weekend in August.

There are 81 lighthouses in Ireland so pick one and plan for next year.



**Tony EI3HA's 50th Birthday  
FT1000MP Birthday Cake**

**9<sup>th</sup> Amateur Radio and Electronics Fair AREB**  
("Amateurfunk-, Rundfunk- und Elektronikbörse")

**Saturday, 13 October 2012**  
**AREB in the University of Technology Dresden.**  
**Germany**

# Galway Radio Experimenters Club Volvo Ocean Race 2012.

The Scouting association of Ireland invited Galway Radio Experimenters Club to become involved with them in their celebration of the Volvo ocean race terminating in Galway this year.

We were delighted to have this opportunity to showcase Amateur radio to the young people of the scouting movement and the general public.

We immediately set about planning the fine detail so as to ensure the event would be a success both from our point of view and, more importantly, the Scouting fraternity.

Within our own membership, we decided that this was to be an event giving priority to the scouts and was not to be another contest station.

A specialist web page was set up by Tycho EI9GXB.

In addition Tycho worked throughout the week at updating events on our own web page [www.galwayradio.com](http://www.galwayradio.com) and he also provided a marine band scanner for the benefit of any sea scouts passing through.

We planned a fox hunt for the scouts and especially for this event, Aengus EI4ABB designed and built a small automatic transmitter that sent out "Galway Radio Club" in Morse. Aengus also demonstrated a DSTAR facility.

Tom EI8DD and Damian EI2HG prepared the ground rules for the design of a special QSL card to be used for this event. The competition was restricted to scouts and a winner is expected be announced in August. Many thanks to Stan EI7DGB who obtained sponsorship for the prize and production of the cards.

Tom EI3ER provided several Morse buzzers to be used by the scouts whilst learning the rudiments of Morse code. Larry EI9CN prepared five A2 sized laminated posters that outlined the very early history of Amateur Radio. Enda EI2II provided the brand new HEX beam which was the main antenna used during the event.

On Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June, we met to set up the radio station and to make the tent a little more comfortable. This was achieved very quickly as we had plenty of willing help.

In attendance were, Damian EI2HG, Tom Mac EI8DD, Tom EI3ER, Gerry EI8EXB, Enda EI2II, Stan EI7DGB, Ciaran EI8IH, Aengus EI4ABB, Tycho EI9GXB, John EI8EU and EI9CN.

Larry McGriskin EI9CN  
Chairman





## Dave EI9FBB visits Jersey

Jersey, officially the Balliwick of Jersey, is the largest of the Channel Islands and is a self-governing democracy which has its own financial, legal and judicial system.

Jersey has a separate relationship to the British Crown and as a result, is NOT part of the United Kingdom. In fact, it is not even part of the EU but instead has a special relationship with it, solely, for the purposes of Free Trade.

Located in the English Channel, it is 100 miles south of Great Britain and only 14 miles from Normandy, France. In fact, one's mobile phone can often connect to a French Network and French VHF/UHF repeaters can be quite easily accessed. Jersey is relatively small, and although measuring only 9 miles by 5 miles, it has almost 500 linear miles of roads. The 2011 census fell just short of 100,000 inhabitants, of which about half, are native Islanders.

As Jersey is one of the few DX entities that is regularly serviced by Cork airport, a cheap Aer Lingus ticket was bought and with a little 'sweet talking', permission was granted from the XYL for a few days operating.

Known throughout the world for its beautiful beaches, B & B's, guest houses and hotels are abundant, and so within a few minutes on Bookings.com, accommodation was secured.

I had booked the Lyndhurst Guest House in St. Brelade's as this was ideally located for easy access to the Jersey Amateur Radio Society's Club-house.

I was already aware that the Jersey ARS welcomed overseas visitors and offered use of their well equipped shack.

Several e-mails with Paul, MJ0PMA, confirmed that the shack was indeed available on my selected dates and so everything was now confirmed.

I must add that Paul made everything so easy, nothing was too much trouble and in fact, as I had every intention on bringing my own 6m equipment, he kindly offered his own personal TS-590s for my convenience. He even installed a 5 element 6m Yagi for the occasion!

The Jersey ARS have in excess of 40 members and have their club-house in an old German signal station. This is

sited down a private cul-de-sac in La Moye, and although a listed historic building, the Society are fortunate enough to have the sole use of the building and grounds. Therefore, 2 towers are now installed here sporting an impressive antenna farm. The shack is currently configured for Multi-Single or 2 person casual operating.

For more information on the Jersey A.R.S. and their excellent facilities, see <http://www.jerseyars.com>

Arriving on the Friday afternoon, I had to wait until early evening before being able to access the shack.

A brief visit to St. Helier filled in these few hours and in fact, was my only opportunity to visit Jersey's only town! The next 72 hours were spent operating/sleeping/operating and .....more operating. I paid special attention to 6 metres as Jersey is one of the rarer of European entities on the Magic Band. Since my visit was in early June, I might have been a little early for the big Es opening, but despite this, some 28 countries were worked on 6m alone and was in fact, a new one for many. All operations were with 100 watts, both 6m and HF.

All too soon it was almost time to QRT and to say goodbye to this beautiful Island.

I had been invited by members of the Jersey ARS to dinner in a local restaurant. This was an ideal opportunity to meet some of the local amateurs and so I quickly accepted. This was my only meal I had while visiting Jersey! The social chat ran into the small hours of the morning and it was great to put a face to some of the familiar GJ/MJ call-signs. Reluctantly, I had to cut it short as I had a plane to catch a few hours later.

I was QRV on all bands from 160m to 6m, mostly CW with a little SSB thrown in. In total, over 2000 QSOs were made (1300 CW/700 SSB) and 24 unique EI callsigns made it into the log. All QSOs have already been uploaded to LoTW and all direct requests replied to.

Special thanks again to all at the Jersey ARS and to all for the tremendous pile-ups. I shall be back!  
Vy 73 de Dave EI9FBB



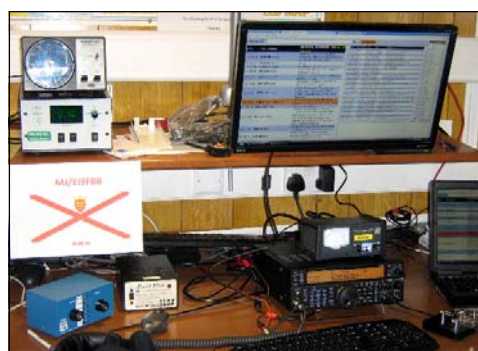
The Jersey ARS Headquarters



Dave with members of the Jersey Contest Group GJ2A



MJ/EI9FBB running a pile-up



The 6m operating position

# Memories

By Tony Walsh EI5EM

## Reminiscences of an ex-Good Buddy and Radio Experimenter

The mid to late 1970s were the heydays of CB radio. I was an SWL and my pride and joy was my Yaesu FRG-7 receiver, which I had bought from Taheny's in Sligo. As well as monitoring the HF and broadcast bands, I often listened to the 27 MHz CB band which was hopping with local and DX traffic as the sunspot cycle reached its high. I was bitten by the bug and soon joined the band of "Good Buddies" deriving great enjoyment and making great friends at the same time.

However, as the solar cycle began to decline and DX contacts on 27 MHz began to become less reliable, there was nothing for it but to grab the bull by the horns and go for the Experimenter Licence, as it was called then. The B licence had recently been introduced and it was no longer a requirement to pass the Morse test to operate on VHF and UHF. The Morse test could be taken separately to avail of HF privileges.

Fingal Radio Club started radio theory classes in the autumn of 1979 and I enrolled with many other "Good Buddies". Our instructors were Sean Linehan (EI7CV), Dick Wilson (EI9CC) and Sean Nolan (EI7CD). We sat the examination the following spring and in September 1980 I was the proud holder of the call-sign EI6AEB.

I set to work organising a good two-metre station using a 10 XY rotatable beam. I used a small Yaesu FT-208R WT for local contacts from home and mobile. The 208R had no tone-burst and I had to whistle the 1750 Hz tone to access repeaters. For SSB I used a Microwave Modules transverter with my Yaesu FT-101ZD HF transceiver, which I hoped I could soon use on HF when I passed the Morse test.

In the early 80s two-metres was hopping. EI1DK, the Dublin two-metre repeater located on Kippure, had only recently been commissioned. It had fantastic coverage, particularly to the north and east with many regular users from the far side of the Irish Sea. Perhaps, the most famous and regular was Bob, GW3LFC (now SK) who travelled back and forth to work daily from Nefyn down the length of the Lleyn peninsula. Bob would give us a graphic running commentary as he drove along. We knew every turn and twist in the road he travelled.

There were also lots of EI mobile stations (Road Runners) and we all chatted away as we negotiated our way through the traffic. Simplex channels also crackled with activity also. How this contrasts with the deafening silence encountered to-day on two metres.

I particularly enjoyed working SSB with the beam, especially when there were lift conditions about (tropo, aurora etc). Albert EI6AS (SK) seemed to be always monitoring two-metre band conditions and would announce any hint of a lift on the Dublin repeater. I had a wall-map of Europe showing the locator squares which I coloured in as I worked them. I cannot recall now how many DXCC countries I worked on two metres.

I just know that I worked most of Western Europe and several eastern European countries using 50 Watts and my 10 XY beam.

In the autumn of 1980 Fingal Radio Club started Morse classes. Jimmy Upton (EI8Z also SK) was our tutor. I passed the test in April of 1981 and got my EI5EM call-sign the following September. In those days new A licensees were limited to 25 Watts (CW only) and confined to 20 and 40 metres for the first year. Many new A class licensees just sat out the "CW Year" and waited for the phone privileges on licence renewal. They never ventured on the bands, considering CW an obstacle and a nuisance.

I already had a HF transceiver and strung up a G5RV antenna. After a nervous shaky start I discovered that I actually enjoyed the CW mode. I vowed to try to have 1,000 QSOs during that first year but I easily surpassed my target. To this day, CW is for me the most enjoyable mode of operation.

In those days we held Experimenter licensees and indeed many of us lived up to the name. We were fired up and full of enthusiasm. There were lots of competing monthly radio periodicals published with practical projects for which kits of parts could be purchased at reasonable prices. I remember particularly the DSB 80 double-sideband QRP kit for 80 metres, which many EIs constructed and operated successfully. I prided myself on constructing a complete home-brew station with several single-band transceivers, ATU, PSU, SWR meter and of course wire antennas.

Alas, much of the practical experimentation has disappeared from the hobby. Black boxes abound and commercial versions of simple antennas, which could be easily constructed, are now sold at ridiculously high prices. Sadly, EIs are now also a rarity on CW. I am frequently informed "You are my first EI on CW, thanks for new DXCC."

Ah well, times change and we must move with them also. However, there is no harm in reminiscing and recalling times past. To all those call-signs, especially the "Road Runners" a big thank you for all the pleasure and enjoyment of so many two-metre QSOs over the past thirty-odd years.

The call-signs are too many to mention but a few stand out particularly. Among them are EI2EM (Charlie), EI6AIB (Donal), EI4CV (Jim), EI0DK (John), EI8EN (Stuart), EI8EQ (Ben), EI4AEB (Ray), EI7AAB (Chris), EI7EH (Alan), EI6DT (Tony), GW3LFC (Bob), EI6AS (Albert) and the late Kevin Freeney EI9BMB after whom one of the IRTS home construction awards is named.

Kevin was a craftsman and artist whose speciality was gold leaf. His beautiful work can be seen in the Royal Hospital in Kilmainham and in many churches around Dublin.

Kevin also had steady regular work in annually updating the list of captains in golf clubs.

Best 73

de Tony (EI5EM ex 29WW131).



# The Locator System

## History

The scoring in official IARU Region I VHF/UHF/SHF contests as well as in most subregional contests is based upon the distance in kilometres between two stations making a complete QSO.

To facilitate the measurement of this distance, at a meeting of the VHF Working Group in the Hague in October 1959 a code system was adopted for giving the location of a station.

This was the QRA-Locator system, devised in Germany, originally based on a two-stage sub-division of geographical longitudes and latitudes starting from the Greenwich meridian and from 40 degrees North.

At the Region I Conference in Malmo (1963) the system was refined by introducing a third sub-division, and in its final form the QRA-Locators consisted of a five-character code, viz. two capital letters, a two digit number and a lower-case letter, for example CM72j.

Many Region I societies developed maps based on this system, either of their own country or of larger parts of Western Europe.

At a meeting of the Region I VHF Working Group in Brussels (1965) Dr. H. R. Lauber, HB9RG, VHF Manager of USKA, showed the first prints of the Region I QRA-Locator map, issued on four sheets and made through his good offices at the request of the VHF Working Group.

At the Region I Conference in Opatija (1966) this map was adopted as the official Region I QRA-Locator map, while at the Region I Conference in Scheveningen the system was re-baptised with the more appropriate name QTH-Locator.

In the meantime it had become very popular and was used not only during contests but also for general amateur work on the VHF/UHF/SHF bands.

For instance, collecting "square" (the first two letters of the QTH-Locator indicating a square of 2 degrees longitude wide and 1 degree latitude high) became one of the most widely practised sports.

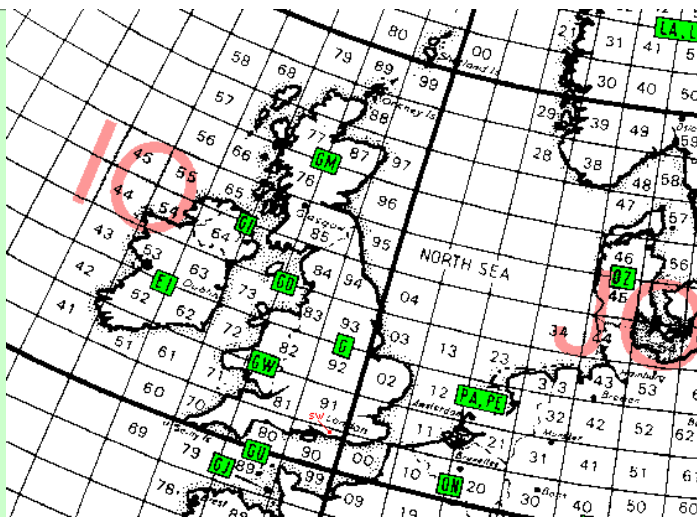
When amateurs outside Region 1, especially in North America (Region II), became interested in using a form of QTH-Locator during their contacts, contests etc. and started investigating the system devised in Region I, they found this Locator system repeated itself several times around the globe.

Hence they considered this ambiguous system not very suitable for exchanging QTH information, for instance during EME contacts.

Furthermore, the QTH-Locator system was not very consistent in the set-up of sub-divisions, particularly with regard to the fifth character (letter). A more consistent system, if introduced, would be of use to the many amateurs who employed computers - from PC's to programmable pocket calculators - to calculate distances and determine antenna directions from QTH-Locators.

For reasons like the ones outlined above, at a meeting of the IARU Region I VHF Working Group in Amsterdam (1976) SM5AGM, VHF manager of SSA, proposed to start discussions on a better Locator system that could replace the existing one and would be usable world-wide.

As there would not be much sense in changing to a world-wide applicable Locator system in Region I if the other Regions would not adopt it, at the Region I Conference in Miskolc-



Tapolca (1978) it was agreed that Region 1 would consult the other two Regions on this matter.

This consultation resulted in an exchange of system proposals between the Regions, and at a certain moment more than 20 different systems and variations on systems, generated in the various Regions, were under consideration!

At the VHF Working Group meeting in Maidenhead (1980) it was felt that the time had come to make a choice, and it was agreed that the best choice would be the system devised by John Morris, G4ANB, but with a modification concerning the starting point of the grid of the first sub-division. This system was widely published in amateur magazines of member societies in Region I as well as in the other Regions.

Thanks to the efforts of Folke Rosvall, SM5AGM - aided, amongst others, by ZL2AMJ (Region III) and W2X (Region II) - agreement between the Regions could be reached and all Regions have now accepted the so-called Maidenhead Locator which henceforth will simply be known as the Locator.

Region II adopted the Locator in 1982, Region III in 1983. at the IARU Region I Conference in Cefalu (1984) Region I adopted the Locator system, and the introduction date was set at January 1, 1986

## Description of the Locator system

The Locator system is a grid system, allowing to give the location of a station by a code consisting of six characters, viz. two capital letters, a two-digit number and, again, two capital letters.

For example: J031DG.

The system is set up as follows.

The globe is divided in  $18 \times 18 = 324$  fields, each 20 degrees longitude wide and 10 degrees latitude high.

Each of these fields is divided in  $10 \times 10 = 100$  squares, each 2 degrees longitude wide and 1 degree latitude high.

Finally, each of the squares is divided in  $24 \times 24 = 576$  sub-squares each 5 minutes longitude wide and 2,5 minutes latitude wide.

The coding/numbering is always from west to east and from south to north, and the origin of the system is at 180 degrees west, 90 degrees south.

As far as "squares" are concerned, the system is compatible with the old QTH-Locator system, both having squares of 2 degrees longitude, 1 degree latitude.

Consequently, for the collectors of "square" continuity is assured.



## Excerpts from the HX files

### A Look at ATV with Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX - Excerpt 022

As I write this Xtract of the HX Files it is only a few weeks since my annual trip to the Friedrichshafen rally in Germany. Some more goodies were bought and added to the stock pile (the shed) photo 1, some to be used in the next issue of this journal, and some items that will come in handy, I hope. (Will I ever learn)?

As you can see from photo 1, I might need a new stores shed, but what is a man (hoarder) to do as it is very handy to have things in stock and not a couple of weeks away and waiting for the postman.

Just like this time last year, I took part in the I.R.T.S. VHF/UHF Field Day. The stations were set up and manned by the Dundalk ARS using EI7DAR/P in



Colon, Co, Louth in IO63qs.

The 23cms SSB and 70cms stations were setup in the back of Mark EI9FX's van. The 23cms station was an Icom 910 transceiver and a single 35 element beam while the 70cms setup was a Kenwood TS2000 and a single 18 element beam. Electricity was supplied by Marks 3.3Kva generator and with the radios and a couple of desk lamps only using up a few watts that left more than enough power to use the most important piece of equipment that was brought to Slabh Bragh (our location), the electric kettle .



In photo 2 (above) you can see Marks rotator which is turned by pulling on the rope to turn the beam, not having a direction indicator in the shack was not much of a hardship as all that had to be done was to use the compass to make sure the beam was pointing near enough to the other station and then some fine tuning to lock-on to them, but it did mean that when the aerials were to be turned someone had to get out of the van with their wetsuit on.

Yes, it was that wet for a time, one could say that the ground was flooded.

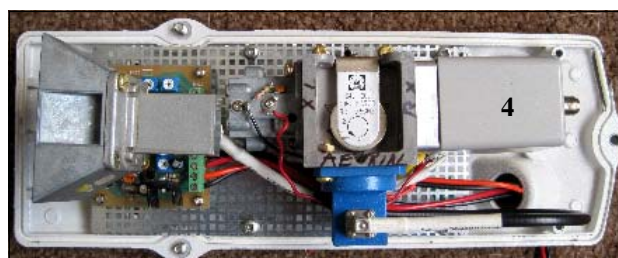
In photo 3 you can see some of the bits and pieces bought in Germany, a couple of centre feeds for some 24 GHz dishes, also seen are some transitions that will convert the waveguide to SMA, an a circulator all for 24 GHz, a couple of items for 5.7 GHz, a few panel mount N type sockets with various lengths of coaxial cable terminated with a SMA fitting on the other end.



The mesh sheets seen in photo 1 will be used for some chassis work and maybe even a front panel or two. With a few projects on the go at the same time, the one described below was the nearest to completion for this journal and as most of the parts were to hand and no need to dig my way in and out of the shed it also needed the least amount of chassis bashing to be completed so I decided to finish it first.

The project in this Echo Ireland is reusing an old test/QRP 10 GHz transmitter that I have had for a while. To do anything with it I found that its enclosure was just big enough for the transmitter and the modulator board and no room for any major improvements to it.

The bottom of the unit you see in Photo 4 is of an old CCTV camera enclosure



bought at a car boot sale and it is a good size and would be more than big enough to take the old transmitter and even a receiver and circulator so it now would become a transceiver.

After a bit of seeing what went where, the first job was to remove the glass pane that was bonded to the front (some of the ingredients used in the manufacturing of glass would distort/block the signal passing through it), so the kettle was boiled (sadly not to make tea) and with the use

*(Continued on page 25)*







# Contest Corner

by IRTS Contest Manager Thos Caffrey EI2JD

## CQWW SSB 2011

A record EI entry of 26 stations are listed in the results of the 2011 CQWW SSB DX Contest.

Nine new EI records were set and congratulations to all participants. A special congrats to Fr. Niall EI4CF who not only set a new EI record on 40m Low Power but he finished second in Europe and 3rd in the world. Congratulations also to the team at EI7M who were narrowly beaten into 2nd place in Europe in the Multi Operator Single Transmitter section by their regular rivals TM6M.

This years CQWW SSB Contest will be held as usual over the last full weekend in October which this year falls on the 27th and 28th.

We look forward to even more EI entries and more EI records. There are still six single band slots that have not been entered.



Thos EI2JD presenting the Hal Hodgins Trophy to Oleg EI7KD. This trophy is awarded to the highest scoring EI station in the 12 hour CW section of the IOTA contest.

## The 5 MHz Newsletter

The latest edition - No. 04, Summer 2012 - of *The 5 MHz Newsletter* is now online on Google docs at <http://tinyurl.com/c86r314> and includes news on the ITU working party for the WRC2015 5 MHz Agenda Item, plus technical correspondence on NVIS from Marcus Walden, G0IJZ

Paul Gaskell, G4MWO, Editor

## CQWW SSB Contest 2011 EI Results

An asterisk (\*) before a call indicates low power.  
Certificate Winners are listed in bold.

Call	Band	Score	QSOs	Zones	DXCCs
<b>EI4DW</b>	A	711,326	987	76	222
<b>EI9KC</b>	28	57,448	293	23	63
<b>EI2CN</b>	14	751,851	2,589	34	105 (EI Record)
<b>*EI8GQB (ON4EI)</b>	A	1,168,020	1,495	85	327 (EI Record)
<b>*EI4GNB</b>	A	394,625	650	73	214
<b>*EI4HQ</b>	A	357,655	700	75	232
<b>*EI3ENB</b>	A	135,830	388	60	175
<b>*EI6KD</b>	A	67,996	198	58	120
<b>*EI2KA</b>	A	35,518	181	31	87
<b>*EI4GAB</b>	A	30,747	152	32	79
<b>*EI3CTB</b>	A	25190	169	30	80
<b>*EI3FEB</b>	14	1,333	35	7	24
<b>*EI4CF</b>	7	79,778	531	23	90
<b>(World 3rd - EU 2nd - EI Record)</b>					
<b>QRP</b>					
<b>EI4II</b>	21	63,180	383	23	85 (EI Record)
<b>Assisted</b>					
<b>EI7CC</b>	A	829,194	1,170	82	257
<b>EI2GLB</b>	A	20,700	104	41	59
<b>EI2II</b>	28	496,392	1,315	38	110 (EI Record)
<b>EI4GXB</b>	28	74,037	322	28	59
<b>EI6JK</b>	21	363,834	1,050	38	136 (EI Record)
<b>EI9HX</b>	7	300,898	1,520	31	111 (EI Record)
<b>EI2JD</b>	1.8	5,715	139	5	40 (EI Record)
<b>*EI5GSB</b>	A	909,238	1,261	86	321 (EI Record)
<b>*EI7JZ</b>	A	390,250	542	87	263
<b>Multi Operator Single Transmitter</b>					
<b>EI7M</b>		<b>18,036,480</b>	<b>8,593</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>712 (EU 2nd)</b>
<b>EI9E</b>		9,688,843	6,231	165	592
<b>EI0PL</b>		878,809	1,117	102	329

## Contest Calendar

All Times UTC

### August 2012

26 Sun 1300 - Sun 1500 IRTS 2m Counties Contest FM/SSB

### September 2012

01-02	Sat 1300 - Sun 1300	IRTS HF SSB Field Day	SSB
01-02	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	All Asian DX Contest	SSB
08-09	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	Worked All Europe DX Contest	SSB
15-16	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	Scandinavian Activity Contest	CW
29-30	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	CQWW RTTY DX Contest	RTTY

### October 2012

06-07	Sat 0800 - Sun 0800	Oceania DX Contest	SSB
06	Sat 1600 - Sat 1959	EU Autumn Sprint	SSB
13-14	Sat 0800 - Sun 0800	Oceania DX Contest	CW
13-14	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	Scandinavian Activity Contest	SSB
13	Sat 1600 - Sat 1959	EU Autumn Sprint	CW
20-21	Sat 1500 - Sun 1459	Worked All Germany Contest	CW/SSB
27-28	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	CQWW DX Contest	SSB



## CQWW SSB EI Records

Up to and Including 2011

Callsign	Score	QSOs	Zones	DXCC	Year
<b>High Power</b>					
All EI8IR	3,325,350	3,508	112	413	2003
10 EI3JE	692,958	2,155	34	113	2002
15 EI8GS	506,850	1,808	33	122	2002
<b>20 EI2CN</b>	<b>751,851</b>	<b>2,589</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>2011</b>
40 EI6JK	236,288	1,173	30	112	2009
80 EI8IR	159,965	1,203	21	86	2002
160 EI7M (Dan)	125,584	1,085	20	74	2009
<b>Low Power</b>					
LAll EI/SP4Z	1,610,690	2,321	105	365	2006
L10 EI4DW	279,070	1,173	23	95	2000
L15 EI4CF	181,916	786	30	116	2002
L20 EI8IC	230,184	1,191	31	108	2001
<b>L40 EI4CF</b>	<b>79,778</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>2011</b>
L80 EI7JN	4,845	151	8	43	2005
L160 EI7IU	5,989	147	6	35	1998
<b>QRP</b>					
All EI4II	33,136	227	24	85	2010
<b>15 EI4II</b>	<b>63,180</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>2011</b>
20 EI6DX	37,017	353	16	65	2009
<b>Assisted High Power</b>					
AAll EI8IR	2,977,871	3,005	123	410	2000
<b>A10 EI2II</b>	<b>496,392</b>	<b>1,315</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>A15 EI6JK</b>	<b>363,834</b>	<b>1,050</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>2011</b>
A20 EI9HX	529,298	1,857	35	119	2009
<b>A40 EI9HX</b>	<b>300,898</b>	<b>1,520</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>2011</b>
A80 X					
<b>A160 EI2JD</b>	<b>5,715</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>Assisted Low Power</b>					
AAll EI5GSB	909,238	1,261	86	321	2011
A10 X					
A15 EI4CF	220,500	687	35	112	2010
A20 X					
A40 X					
A80 X					
A160 X					
<b>MS EI7M</b>	<b>18,036,480</b>	<b>8,593</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>M2 EI9E</b>	<b>7,304,896</b>	<b>6,507</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>MM X</b>					

## CQ WPX RTTY 2012 EI Results

Callsign	Score	QSOs	PFXs
<b>EI2GLB A</b>	<b>1,503,872</b>	<b>1006</b>	<b>496</b>
EI3GRB A	293,930	427	266
<b>*EI4DW A</b>	<b>561,275</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>325</b>
*EI9KC A	23,688	98	84
*EI8FH A	7,544	46	46
<b>*EI3GC 21</b>	<b>887,094</b>	<b>781</b>	<b>446</b>

Congratulations to Liam EI3GC who scored a world first in the 15m low power section. The next CQ WPX RTTY Contest will be held over the weekend of February 9th and 10th 2013.

## CW Field Day 2012 Results

### Open Section

1. **EI5KF/P** **399** **135,783**

### Restricted Section

1. **EI3Z/P** **940** **390,954**

Ops: EI4CF, EI6IB, EI6GGB,  
EI7GY, EI8IU, EI9HX



EI5KF/P in CW Field Day

### IOTA Contest

The RSGB Islands On The Air Contest, held on the last weekend in July, is one of the more popular contests in the EI contesters calendar.

There were at least a dozen EI and GI stations operating from the mainland. One of the big signals from the mainland was Olivier EI8GQB, who used the contest call sign EI1A for the IOTA weekend. He has posted a claimed score showing over 1,200 QSOs; of particular interests is the fact that much of the power he used during the contest weekend was derived from wind and solar energy.

Two Echo-Juliet island stations were heard: EJ0PL, a Polish/Irish team, who were on Little Saltee Island, and EJ3Z - members of the Shannon Basin Radio Club and Galway Radio Club - who were on Inisbofin.

Ger EI5KF was active from Bere Island. See write ups on EJ3Z and EI5KF elsewhere in this issue.

## IRTS 2m Counties Contest Spring 2012 Results

		Valid QSOs	Counties	Total Score	Cnty
<b>(a) High Power Portable</b>					
<b>*EI*</b>	<b>EI7DAR/P, Dundalk A.R.S.</b> Ops: EI2JD, EI2HJB, EI8EJB, EI9GJB	<b>49</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3,774</b>	<b>LOU</b>
	EI4GRC/P, Galway R.E.C. Ops: EI2II, EI7DGB	39	16	2,864	GAL
	EI0NDR/P, North Dublin R.C. Ops: EI6EQB, EI4EPB, EI4ESB, EI4ERB	20	8	616	DUB
<b>(b) Low Power Portable – max 10w</b>					
<b>*EI*</b>	<b>EI4GXB/P, Ger McNamara</b> EI2WRC/P, South Eastern A.R.G. EI7GEB/P, David Morgan	<b>45</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2,499</b>	<b>TIP</b>
		36	15	1,830	TIP
		35	12	1,752	CAV
<b>(c) High Power Fixed</b>					
<b>*EI*</b>	<b>EI4CF, Niall Foley</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2,192</b>	<b>GAL</b>
<b>(d) Low Power Fixed - Max 10w</b>					
<b>*OEI*</b>	<b>MI0RRE, Robert Rantin</b> 2I0MFB, Jamie Nelson	<b>27</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1,166</b>	<b>ARM</b>
		31	11	1,045	FER
<b>*EI*</b>	<b>EI3ENB, Paul Norris</b> EI2NCR, Skerries R.C.	<b>21</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>693</b>	<b>KLK</b>
		19	7	602	DUB
<b>(e) FM Only - Single Operator</b>					
<b>*EI*</b>	<b>EI7GY/P, Joe Ryan</b> EI4IP/P, Sean Kennedy EI3FFB, Eamonn Kavanagh EI9FVB/P, Declan Horan	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1,104</b>	<b>LAO</b>
		17	11	715	MEA
		18	9	342	TIP
		11	5	210	KER

### **(f) SWL No Entry**

**Check Logs:** EI2KA, EI7BFB

\*EI\* = Award Winner: - Leading EI Station

\*OEI\* = Award Winner: - Leading station outside EI

## Official launch of the Craggy Island DXpedition Group

The official launch of the Craggy Island DXpedition Group, using their new call-sign EI0TED, took place on Sunday the 27th of May meeting at the Parochial House in the Burren, Co. Clare.

Two stations were put on air during the period between 11am and 3pm. The LF station was operated on 80 metres and took calls on 3680KHz following the IRTS News. The station then QSYed to 40 metres where the band was lively and a good pile up was generated.

Many fans of the series, Fr Ted, called in and supported the operation.

All of their details were on QRZ.com where a picture of the location and the details of the QTH were displayed.

The second station operated on 20 metres where a pile up was generated very quickly.

It was interesting to note that the Fr. Ted series was popular in Poland and resulted in many stations calling in.

Arthur was able to QSO in his native tongue with his fellow countrymen.

The 20 metre band was open mainly to Europe at this time of day.

At 3pm, the stations were dismantled and packed away in record time.

A sumptuous feast followed in the Parochial House with copious amounts of tea and scones. A fitting way to finish a really enjoyable activity.

Special thanks to John EI1EM, Tom EI2GP, Andrew EI3FEB, Steve EI5DD and Arthur, EI7GMB for contributing to the success of this event.

Later this year there will be a number of operations from Offshore Islands round the coast of Ireland.

EI3IS is an experienced kayaker and hopes to activate some of the more inaccessible islands with no landing facilities and due to the mode of transport many of these operations will be QRP. This should not present a major problem if the band conditions are reasonable.

Check out the News section of [www.galwayvhfgroup.com](http://www.galwayvhfgroup.com) where up to date announcements of our operations may be found.

Current EI0TED/EJ0TED operations may also be found on QRZ.COM

## IRTS VHF-UHF Field Day 2012

<b>Open Section:</b>			QSO's	Points
EI9E/P Network Southern Area R.E.C.			667	270,399
<b>Restricted Section</b>				
50MHz	EI7KD/P	Oleg Solovyov (Dundalk ARS)	14	3,303
70MHz	EI9CJ/P	Tom McDermott (Dundalk ARS)	1	26
144MHz	EI0W/P	Dundalk Amateur Radio Society	52	15,369
	EI7T/P	Tipperary Amateur Radio Group	29	10,791
432MHz	EI2HX/P	Pat Fitzpatrick (Dundalk ARS)	10	2,479
1296MHz	EI7DAR/P	Dundalk Amateur Radio Society	1	140





## Members Advertisements

### Wanted:

FT1000MP, FT101ZD MK3, TS830S, FT902DM or any other valve output transceiver. Good price paid for a good transceiver. No junk please.  
Email to nosmas5@yahoo.ie

### For Sale

FT-857D, Serial number 4D170042, boxed with manual, €600 O.N.O.  
Contact John EI7IG on 086-8167310

**Members advertisement are free  
Send to ei4bz@eircom.net**

### IRTS Radio News Service

Items for inclusion in the IRTS Radio News and/ or the Echo Ireland Newsletter can be sent by email to  
newsteam@irts.ie

Deadline for inclusion in the Sunday new bulletin is 1200 on Thursday.  
Urgent items can be telephone to the Editor Aidan EI7JC on 085-7100511

## IRTS Shop Update

Following discussion with our friends at RSGB the Society has agreed to give a 10% discount to IRTS members on purchases from the RSGB Shop.

IRTS members should select the “*Non members Price*” before placing the order and then enter the special IRTS Discount Code during the checkout process.

At this point the 10% discount will be calculated.

IRTS members, who are also RSGB members, should continue to select the “*RSGB Member's Price*” to get the RSGB Member's discount and not use the IRTS Discount Code. It is not possible to obtain both discounts!

The IRTS Discount Code will change from time to time and will be published for members in Echo Ireland. Currently the Code is:

**IRTS2012XWW**

The RSGB Shop can be accessed from the link on the IRTS website or directly at

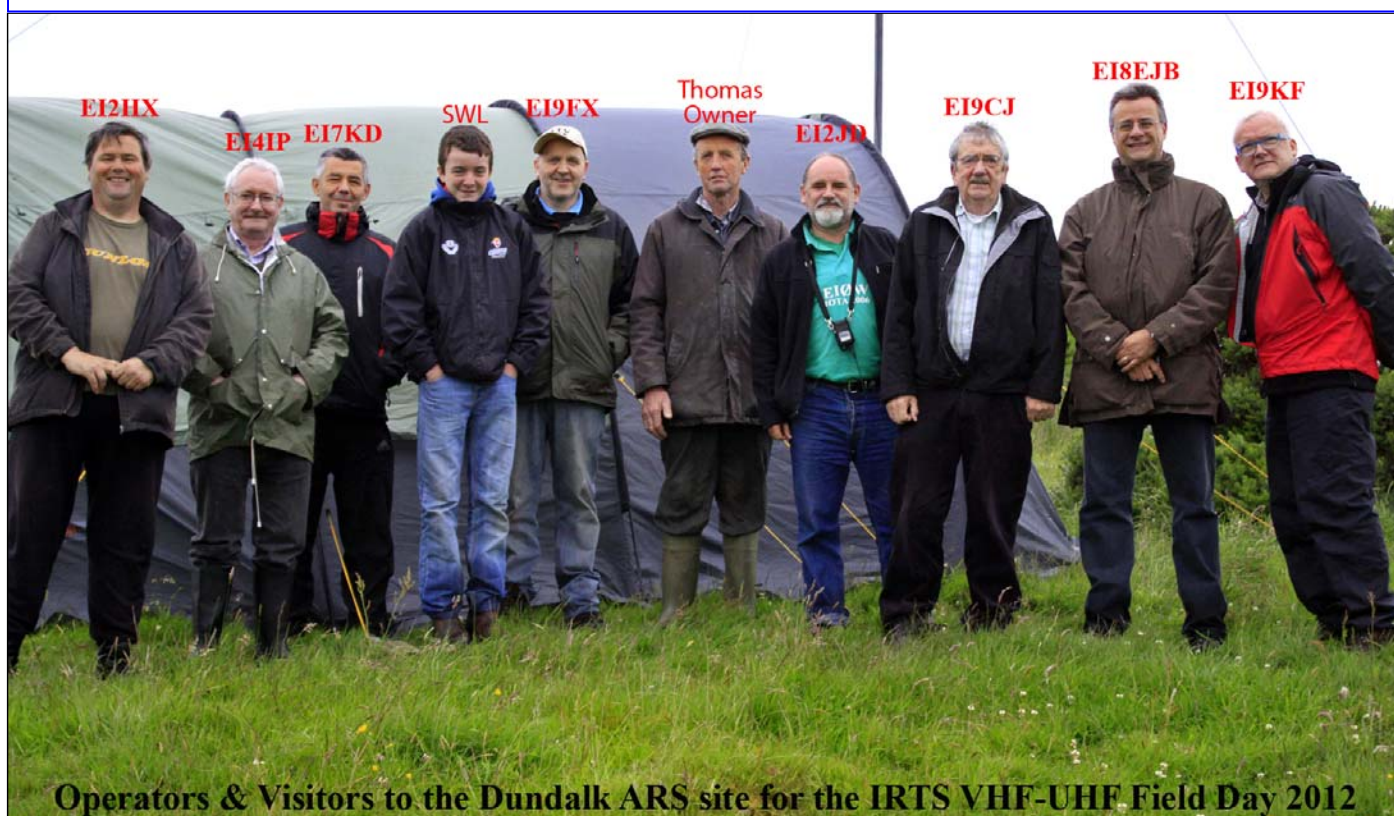
**[www.rsgbshop.org](http://www.rsgbshop.org)**

The RSGB Shop stocks a comprehensive range of books on radio and related topics published by RSGB and others.

RSGB's own publications are internationally recognised as being of the highest standard and provide excellent sources of reference and a way for amateurs to broaden their knowledge of the hobby.

**Check it out today!**

## Dundalk Amateur Radio Society VHF/UHF Field 2012



**Operators & Visitors to the Dundalk ARS site for the IRTS VHF-UHF Field Day 2012**



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Please note: I can still be contacted at [jimbobtraynor@utvinternet.com](mailto:jimbobtraynor@utvinternet.com)

## **North Cork Radio Group Annual Radio Rally & Electronics Fair**

**Sunday, 9th September 2012**

**The Roebuck Room, Commons Inn,  
New Mallow Road,  
Blackpool, Cork**

Doors open at 11am and admission is €5.00  
(children are free, as usual).

Raffle tickets will also be available at the door.

The usual traders will be present and anyone  
wishing to reserve a table or interested in  
setting up a stall, should contact:

Pat Thompson EI2GHB on 085-1407715

or

Edwin Van Mierlo EI2HEB on 086-3885741

or via email at [ei2heb@ei1nc.com](mailto:ei2heb@ei1nc.com)

## **Carrigfergus Amateur Radio Group Annual Radio Rally**

**Saturday 20th October 2012  
in**

**Downshire Community School,  
Carrickfergus.**

Doors will be open from 12:30pm  
(access for traders from 10:00am).

A good variety of equipment suppliers, book stalls,  
bring and buy and associated traders will be present.

A full list of traders will be announced in due  
course.

For trading requirements (or bring and buy table  
provision), contact [carg@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:carg@hotmail.co.uk).

Hot food and drinks will be available to purchase at  
the event.

Visit the CARG Club website below or contact  
[carg@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:carg@hotmail.co.uk) for further information.

## **Irish Radio Transmitters Society AGM Weekend 2013 Athlone April 27/28th**

## **Mayo Rally Welcome Inn Hotel Castlebar November 18th 2012**

# South East Communications

**Amateur Radio  
Marine VHF  
Shortwave Receivers  
Scanning Receivers  
GPS Systems  
Accessories**



**Gary O'Hanlon,  
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## Used Equipment - All prices for straight sales

Adonis AM-503G. Both Microphones wired for Kenwood.....	€65.00
Alinco DM330MW. 30 Amp Switch Mode Power supply. New.....	€139.00
Alinco DX-SR8E. Latest HF Rig from Alinco. New .....	€699.00
Ameritron 811 HXCE. 800w Amplifier. As new. ....	€99.00
Antron 99 Fibreglass Base Antenna, 10/12m .....	€9.00
AOR 3000. All Mode Receiver. 0-2036MHZ. Good Condition .....	€99.00
AOR-3030. 0-30MHz Base receiver. Mint condition.....	€99.00
AOR 8600 MK11. 100kHz-3000MHz All Mode Boxed, Mint .....	€99.00
AOR SDU 5000. Spectrum Display Unit. As new condition.....	€499.00
Diamond SX-400 SWR Meter. 2m/70cms. 200w .....	€85.00
Garmin Quest Handheld GPS. Ireland & Europe .....	€9.00
Icom FP-21. Matching speaker for IC-7400, IC-756 etc. ....	€85.00
Icom ICR-71E. Base Receiver. Mint condition .....	€499.00
Icom IC-706MK11. HF+6m+2m. Very Good Condition.....	€649.00
Icom ICR-7000. 0-2000MHz. All Mode Receiver .....	€99.00
Icom IC-7200. HF+6m Boxed Mint .....	€699.00
Icom IC-7400. HF +6m+2m. Auto ATU. Boxed. Mint .....	€1,299.00
Icom ICR-8500. 0-2000MHz. All Mode Communication Rx.....	€1,199.00
Icom ICR-9000. Top Class Communications Rx. 0-2000MHz .....	€1,499.00
Icom UT-106. DSP Unit for IC-706 etc.....	€75.00
Kenwood AT-230. 200w Manual ATU .....	€75.00
Kenwood MC-60A Desk Mike for TS2000, TS570 etc. ....	€19.00
Kenwood MC-80. Desk mike for all Kenwood radios .....	€79.00
Kenwood R-2000. 0-30MHz with VHF converter fitted .....	€99.00
Kenwood THF7E Dual band H/H transceiver with 0-1300MHz Rx ....	€99.00
Kenwood TM-V 71E. Dual band mobile with separation kit Mint.....	€249.00
Kenwood TS-570DGE. Auto ATU, DSP 100w. Good Condition .....	€799.00
Kenwood TS-590S. Latest HF rig fm Kenwood, less than 1 yr old...	€1,299.00
Kenwood TS-2000. HF-70cms. Auto ATU, DSP, 3yrs old .....	€1,249.00
LDG KT-100. Auto for FT817.....	€49.00
Linear Amp UK Balanced Super Tuner. Mint.....	€449.00
MFJ Deluxe CW Paddle.....	€75.00
MFJ-949E. 300w tuner with dummy load .....	€75.00
MFJ 969. 300w Roller Coaster Antenna Tuner. Demo .....	€249.00
MFJ-994 Intelli Tuner. 600w auto ATU .....	€349.00
Tokyo Hi-Power HL-700B. 600w PEP Solid state amp 0-30MHz ....	€1,099.00
Vectronics VDLP-300. As new ATU/Dummy load. Boxed, mint .....	€75.00
Yaesu DMU-2000, Data management unit for FT2000 etc Boxed. As new .....	€99.00
Yaesu FT-1802E. 50w 2m mobile. Boxed Mint.....	€29.00
Yaesu FT-2000. Top class base transceiver. Boxed, as new .....	€1,899.00
Yaesu FT-2800, 50 watt, 2m mobile.....	€29.00
Yaesu FT-51R Dual band handheld with drop in charger .....	€75.00
Yaesu FT-747GX. Ideal starter rig. 100w .....	€349.00
Yaesu FT-840. 100w all mode transceiver. Boxed. Mint condition.....	€499.99
Yaesu FT-847 Earth Station. HF+6m+2m+70cms. All Mode. Mint....	€49.00
Yaesu FT-897. HF-70cms. Boxed, As new .....	€699.00
Yaesu FT-990AC. Built in ATU & PSU. V.G.C.....	€99.00
Yaesu MD-1. Desk Mike. Mint Condition .....	€85.00
Yaesu MD-2000 Desk Mike for FT 5000, 2000 etc .....	€219.00
Yaesu VR-5000. All Mode Receiver. 0-2.6GHz .....	€475.00
Yaesu VX-170. 2m handheld + charger.....	€79.00

\*\*\*Special Offer\*\*

Nevada PSW-50. 50A switched mode power supply ..... only €49.00

## Base & Handheld Scanner Sale

**All with 30 day warranty  
When they are gone they are gone!**

Uniden UBC244CLT Base Scanner .....	€89.00
Uniden UBC800XLT. GPS enabled scanner.....	€275.00
Realistic PRO 2006. 25-1300MHz .....	€49.00
Uniden UBC3500XLT. 25-1300MHz. Boxed as new .....	€69.00

## Special Offer

**Diamond BB7V 6.5m vertical  
2 - 30MHz. No radials €439.00**



**W-8681  
Weather  
Station**

**only  
€99.00**

## Special Offer!

**100m RG213  
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